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The Long Island FISHERMAN

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MAY 8th, 1975, ISSUE No. 17

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See page 16.

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

THE ONLY WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

Volume 10, No. 17 May 8th, 1975

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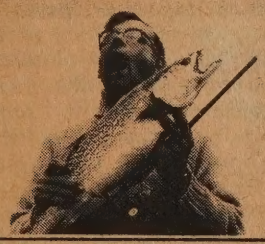

ABOUT THE COVER: "Doc" Grell reveals all his weakfishing secrets in his article "Great South Bay Weakfishing," beginning on page 18. Doc holds the 6-lb. class World's Record for weakfish and broke his own record last spring.

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Chum Lines

CHANGE TO LAUNCHING RAMP LIST

1.. I have one correction and one addition to the launching ramp list.

The correction deals with number eleven (Asharoken). This ramp is a "Huntington Town Residents Only" ramp and is located on Northport Bay, not Long Island Sound, as marked on the map.

The addition is of the Huntington Town Ramp in Cold Spring Harbor. This ramp is located on 25A, next to King Neptune Restaurant. It is only about a 10 ft. ramp and should not be used at low tide without a 4WD vehicle. Even though this is supposed to be a "Residents only" ramp, I have never seen anyone there to check.

Thank you for all the excellent information and especially the much needed and long awaited launching ramp list.

The Roosevelt Park ramps in Oyster Bay have been torn up and are in the process of being rebuilt. Probably more than 2 ramps and at least 2 months from completion. *Bruce C. Smith, Huntington.*

I received your "Long Island Launching Ramps" folder and I believe some readers will find it misleading.

Ramps #43 and may be #44 require a Resident's permit after a certain day. Parking is frowned on by local police. I had to park ½ mile away in the woods, as did others. *Jim Aylmer, Bayville.*

PRAISE FOR LIF STAFF

I gladly enclose my renewal for your fine publication. Please note that I am a school teacher, and have recently begun to pass along older issues to our school library. Shortly there will be a "flea market" for the Heart Fund, and I expect to donate old copies to them for this worthy cause.

My colleague, Assistant Principal John McDonald, and I are both avid readers of L.I.F. and eagerly await it each week. I can thank John for introducing me to L.I.F. With L.I.F. you can literally "go fishing all year!"

Keep the great issues coming! *Sam Warren, Plainview, N.Y.*

Thanks for the kind words. Though we do receive a number of complaints from readers each week, and try to resolve them as best we can, by far the greatest number of letters praise the staff of The Fisherman.

Because of the mass of Chum Lines *mail I receive each week, I am unable to answer each plandit personally. For all these whose letters were not responded to, the staff wants you to know they appreciate the good feelings of the readership. We'll continue trying to do the best job for the fishermen of Long Island, even as we goad, and occasionally infuriate you with our gentle, and not-so-gentle, comments and information. Thanks again! G.V.*

YOUNG FISHERMAN COMPLAINS

I am writing about an experience I had on a Sheepshead Bay party boat (I wouldn't like to mention its name).

As we were preparing to return from a day's fishing, I saw a fisherman dump overboard all the garbage he collected, such as empty beer bottles, coffee cups and much more. I am a thirteen year old fisherman sportsman and was shocked over what a fellow fisherman would selfishly do, without a thought of ecology.

These are the people who are responsible for the terrible conditions of our once—beautiful beaches and fishing grounds. People like them are a menace, and should be ashamed of themselves for messing up our fishing gounds.

I enjoy reading your section Chum Lines and also enjoy the interesting articles printed in the *Long Island Fisherman. Cono D'Alto, Brooklyn.*

You've mentioned a point we continually stress: Some fishermen are slobs, and stupid to boot, because they are committing those ecologically unwise acts that will ultimately ruin the basics for their own sport.

Not only do they litter, they take undersize fish and fish in quantities they couldn't possibly use. Flounder fishing the other weekend, I observed some bottom-bouncers keeping 4-5" flatties. C'mon, guys, what in Hell can you use them for?

And this is only the beginning. Wait until weakfish, fluke, bass, etc. begin. Omigod what hungries will be out in force, then!

CLUB NEWS

HUNTINGTON ANGLERS' CLUB

Despite the blustery winds 23 members of the Huntington Anglers' Club went on their annual flounder charter trip on Sunday, April 20, on the "Lillian M" with Capt. Mickey Majewski, out of Greenport, L.I. They caught about 100 flounders, all keepers.

First prize won by Glenn Patraitis - 2 lbs. 2 ozs.; Second prize won by Fred Macchiaroli - 1 lb. 15 ozs.; Third prize

won by Mike Macchiaroli - 1 lb. 13 ozs.

The winds were out of the N.W. with gusts to 40 mph, and Corresponding Secretary Dan Marro said it felt like the middle of winter.

TOURNAMENT ANGLERS

Tournament Anglers are looking for some new members that are interested in offshore fishing and to fish tournaments. For further information call Joe Carter at (516) 221-1951.

SALT WATER FISHING CLINIC

The Southern New York Fish and Game Association is running its 5th annual Salt Water Clinic to be held at:

Little Theater
Westchester County Center
White Plains, N.Y.
Time; 7:45 P.m.
Wednesday, May 14, 1975

Got A Problem? Got A Question?

Come to the meeting and ask the experts the tough ones. Here is your opportunity to get the answers for the coming season!

These men will be available to answer your questions:

Ted Keatley (Chairman) - Co-author of Fishing Western Long Island Sound.

A.S. "Tony" Taormina - Director of Marine & Coastal Resources, N.Y. State Dept. of Environmental Conservation.

Ken Bay - Author of "Salt Water Flies" (J.B. Lippincott Co.).

Art Glowka - Author, ecologist, fisherman and an organizer of the Striped Bass Fund.

Capt. John Gasparrini - Playland Fishing Concession, Rye.

Capt. Steve Lubrano - "Theresa L," Norwalk, Conn.

Displays and Demonstrations

Long Island Sound Fishing Tackle - Art Deffaa and Burt Carpenter.

Salt Water Fly Tying - Ken Bay and Ernie Blum

CONTESTS & TOURNAMENTS

SANTO'S SPORT SHOP SURF FISHING CONTEST

Dates: April 1 to Oct. 31, 1975.

Staten Island surf only.

Entrance fee - none, but must pick up a fishing badge from Santo's and or J & L Sports to enter contest and display at weigh-in time.

Two separate contests will be run, one at Santo's and one at J & L Sports. If fish is weighed at one shop and entered, it cannot be entered at the other shop.

3 largest Striped Bass of the year
3 largest Bluefish of the year
3 largest Weakfish of the year

Each contestant can hold one place in each division, but not two in the same division.

Prizes

1st Place - $25.00 Gift Certificate
2nd Place - $15.00 Gift Certificate
3rd Place - $10.00 gift Certificate

A total of 9 prizes will be awarded at each store.

For further information call Santo's on 212-987-0302, or J & L on 212-984-2556.

BAY SHORE MAKO TOURNAMENT

The Bay Shore Tuna Club is pleased to again invite all fishing clubs and anglers to participate in the Mako Tournament to be held at Bay Shore on June 28 and June 29. Entries to be limited to 150 boats, first come, first served.

As in the last years's tournament, pre-designated club teams will be competing for club prizes and all anglers may compete for individual prizes. This year women will fish on a par with the men.

Mooring facilities at the Bay Shore Marina will be made available without cost to tournament participants. Due to milited dock space, berths will be assigned on a first come - first served basis, so get your application early.

A meeting of anglers will be held on Friday night, June 27th at Capt. Bill's Anchorage, Ocean Avenue, Bay Shore, New York at 8:00 p.m. sharp. At this time, the boat numbers, tournament badges and literature will be distributed. General conduct and questions concerning the tournament and rules will be answered and explained at this time.

For further information contact: Bay Shore Tuna Club, 87 Ocean Avenue; Bay SHore, N.Y. 11706, or call 516-MO-5-0037.

YOUNG BOATMAN SAFETY COURSE IN SEAFORD

A free young boatman safety course for oys and girls between the ages of ten and sixteen will be given by The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 13-10 at the South Seas Yacht Club, located at the foot of South Seamans Neck Road, in Seaford, starting on Friday May 9th, 1975 at 7:30 P.M. This will be a four lessson session, and a permit to pilot a boat will be awarded to those youngsters that pass the course.

For further information, please call Al Zucker at 516-We-8-5536 or the South Seas Yacht Club at 516-221-2880.

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SALTY DOG
Shrimp
Another World Record in the Long Island area! Dr. Einar F. Grell of Deer Park, New York set a new world record for Weakfish (13lbs., 2 oz.) in the 6 lb. class. Grell used Bagley's pink Salty Dog Shrimp to make his catch in Great South Bay.
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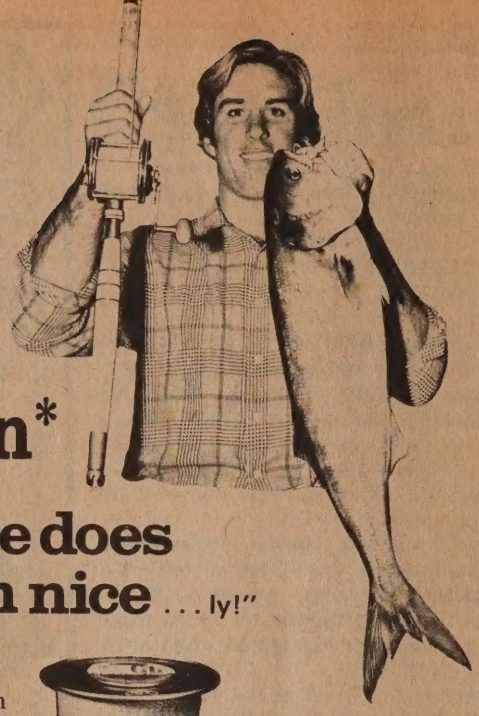

It sure does fish nice . . . ly!"

Are you tired of striking a fish half a dozen times just to make sure he's on? Are you aware that with a long line it is possible to put every muscle of your body into setting the hook at the rod's end and have little or no effect on the fish at the hook's end? Do you ever wonder why so many outrigger knockdowns and no fish? The answer is simple - *there's too much bounce in your present stretchy line!*

Fishing with Gudebrod's G-6® Bluespot and G-T® Teflon* coated Dacron* lines can change all that!

We took the bounce out of setting the hook by making a series of fine diameter dacron lines that have a minimal amount of stretch. When you set the hook with Gudebrod, he's hit *and* hard! Thanks to this lack of line stretch there's no doubt when you get a strike. You will see an increased bending action in the rod. This action in turn brings the rod's power into play much sooner and many times will set the hook itself. We call it Gudebrod's *instant strike response!*

Try this conclusive backyard test yourself.

Use a friend and your favorite casting or trolling outfit - tie a sinker to *your* line - place it in the friend's hand- have him walk the distance at which you ordinarily fish a lure. Tie a length of Gudebrod Dacron (of equal test to your mono) to a sinker and place it in his other hand - run Gudebrod through the guides and tie it to the reel - have friend's arms hang loose at sides. Now, ease the slack out of the lines and set the hook in your normal manner. Watch the reaction in his arms. Trade places with your friend and feel the difference in your own arms. You'll then understand how **Gudebrod G-6® Bluespot, Greenspot and G-T®** *can make you* a more productive fisherman!

Send 50 cents to cover postage and handling for the **Gudebrod 1974 color catalog** and assorted literature on fishing lines, lures, rod building, how to tell the weather, etc.

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News Releases

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric administration
Endangered Species Act of 1973
Notice of Public Hearing Regarding Listing Atlantic Bluefin Tuna as a Threatened Species and Promulgating Protective Regulations in Connection Therewith.

Notice is hereby given that an informal public hearing will be held commencing at 10 a.m., local time, on May 16, 1975, at the Gardner Auditorium, State House, Beacon and Bowdoin Streets, Boston, Massachusetts, for the purpose of obtaining comments and views from interested persons with respect to (1) the proposed listing of Atlantic bluefin tuna (Thunnus thynnus thynnus) as a threatened species under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and (2) the proposed protective regulations relating to this species.

Notice of the proposed determination to list Atlantic bluefin tuna as a "threatened" species was published in 40 F.R. 14767 on April 2, 1975. In connection therewith proposed protective regulations were prepared and notice of proposed rulemaking with respect to such protective regulations was published in 40 F.R. 14777 on April 2, 1975. A draft Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared on the proposal to list Atlantic bluefin tune as a "threatened" species.

The hearing will be informal. At the commencement of the hearing the presiding officer will announce the procedures to be followed at the hearing. All interested persons will be afforded the opportunity to present their comments and views. The record will remain open until June 2, 1975, for the submission of written comments or views. Written comments or views may be submitted to the Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Washington, D.C. 20235.

In the event interested individuals wish to examine the public record, including the draft Environmental Impact Statement, they may do so between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the office of the Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, 3300 Whitehaven Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20235.

In the notice which appeared in 40 F.R. 14777 on April 2, 1975, it was stated that comments, views, objections or requests for a public hearing should be submitted no later than May 28, 1975. As a result of this notice the record will remain open for all comments through June 2, 1975.

THE BOTTOM LINE

with Scott Simons

WEAKFISH: Part One
BAIT & BOTTOM RIGS

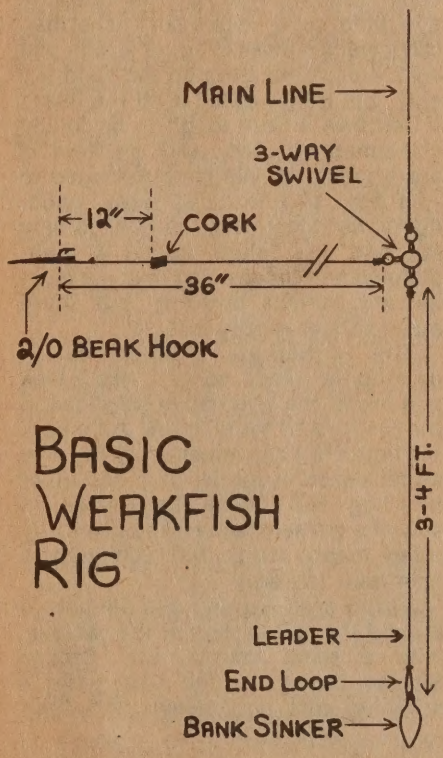
The first weakfish of the 1975 season have been taken in the last ten days, so by the time you read this, weakfishing may well have broken wide open. Since mid-April the fish have been running the Fire Island Inlet on incoming tide, only to be turned back by the still-cool waters of the bay that confronted them. But the southerly winds and mild temperatures are warming the water a little more each day, and any tide now huge masses of weakfish will be pouring into Great South Bay.

After an extended thirty-year absence, weakfish began their spectacular comeback in the fall of 1970 when hoards of fingerling weaks were taken by snapper fishermen in the bays and creeks. Each succeeding year since has seen an increase in the weakfish population, bringing memories of the pre-World War II weakfish bonanzas to many an old-timer. Known commercially as gray sea trout, and in New England as squeteague, weakfish are members of the drum family, as evidenced by the croaking sounds made by the male. Larger fish of six pounds and up are nick-named tide-runners or yellow-tails.

Over the last few seasons, use of the pink shrimp has gained such popularity as a weakfish lure that many fishermen know of no other weakfishing technique. While they are deadly for weakfish, artificial pink shrimp are by no means the last word on successful weakfishing techniques; they are simply one among many. Take baitfishing, for example...

Weakfish are a game fish recognized by the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) and are predators that feed on sand eels, grass shrimp, killies, spearing and small bunker. Occasionally they will root along the bottom for sea worms and blue claw and other crabs in the shedder (soft shell) stage. All of these baits may be fished while drifting or from anchor with a basic one-hook bottom rig as shown in the diagram. Tie a 2/0 beak type hook with a 36 inch leader to a 3-way swivel approximately three to four feet above an end loop for the sinker. If the current is very slow, add a small cork about a foot from the hook to keep the bait off the bottom by at least two feet, away from the crabs and in the feeding zone of the weak, which is usually one to four feet above the bottom.

Bait for weakfish should be hooked so that it moves naturally in the current. Squid strips 4 inches long and ¾-inch wide, tapering to a point, are hooked once through the wide end so they will flutter enticingly in the current. Blood and sand worms are hooked through the head and threaded about ½-inch up on the hook shank. The tail of the worm is allowed to trail. Live killies are hooked once through the lips so they may swim freely.



BASIC WEAKFISH RIG

Spearing and sand eels are hooked through the eye-sockets, and two or three grass shrimp are hooked through the head together on one hook. Shedder crabs are cut into halves, or quartered and tied to the hook shank with thread. Four-inch strip baits of porgy, mackerel, flounder, etc., are presented in the same manner as squid strips.

Because of the weak's paper-thin mouth, you can't give him much leverage via rod or tight drag. What happens is that as the weak fights, a hole will gradually enlarge where the hook has been embedded, thus allowing the fish to throw the hook the moment he gets an inch of slack. The trick is to not give him anything too solid to pull against; and never, never give a weakfish slack line.

The short, whippy "fencing foils" were the ideal rods for weakfishing in yesteryear, but I have never seen one on today's market. A light action, six- to seven-foot one-handed spinning rod with a slow taper will also do the job efficiently. Use a matching spinning reel with eight to 12-pound test mono. This same combination happens to be an excellent all-around outfit for most south shore bay fishing. A light baitcasting or conventional rod and reel with 12- to 15-pound test will also fill the bill. In either case, use a light, whippy rod, not the stiff boat rod variety that weakfish can use as a lever to make a gaping hole in their mouths.

Use a light drag so the weak can run with little resistance, just enough to tire him out without making a large hole. A weakfish will make straight, powerful runs, but give him his head and don't try to horse him in. Always be alert and make sure the fish doesn't gain any slack line. The hook will often just fall out of the mouth when you do.

Weakfish will be found most anywhere—as long as there is a good supply of baitfish to feed on. Marsh banks, creeks, slopes, channels, flats, inlets, tidal rips; the foraging weaks will visit all at times. You can either scout around and chase the fish, or anchor in a likely spot and hope they come to you. It's often a matter of hit and miss, and depends on the type of fisherman you are. Personally, I like to move around a lot in my boat and find the weakfish.

Whenever possible, drift for weakfish. You will cover a lot more ground. But if the current is running too strong or the mosquito fleet is out in force, your best bet will be to anchor. Pick a good spot where the fish are likely to pass as they forage for food. I like to fish the slopes where the flats run into deeper water, along which the weakfish often travel.

While anchored it is possible to cover a large area by "walking" the bait out with the current. Slowly feed out line as the current carries the rig, but also make sure you keep a taut

(Continued on page 9.)

Surf Side with Doc Muller

WEAKFISH--Part II: My "Hot" Lure

I've been known to climb in and out of a boat on occasion, much to the discontent of my surf-buff friends who seem to have "boataphobia."

In spite of my addiction for the surf, I've had some of my best angling "brainstorms" while bobbing on the briny, and I've learned a few tricks that have proven to be very successful in the suds.

My most recently-discovered "goodie" is the Tri-Fin Whiptail. Before I go any further, I wish to state for the benefit of the suspicious among you that I am not employed or paid by the makers of Tri-Fin Products. My interest here is to pass along to you information about what I believe to be the greatest weakfish lure that I have ever used. Hopefully, this information will improve your success!

First, let me briefly tell you how I happened to discover its potential. Like everybody else, I have used soft plastic shrimp lures with great success. They outfish bucktails, plugs, and tins, and have revolutionized light-tackle weakfishing.

I stumbled on the Whiptail accidentally last spring, and I was impressed with its ability to catch weakfish— even when the fish were sluggish.

So I tried the lure out in my home territory of Peconic Bay, testing it against every lure in my arsenal, and even giving it a "go" against fresh bait. It was amazing to see my companions begin the day's fishing with a shrimp lure of their liking, convinced that it was the only lure to use, and then beg me for a Whiptail when I outfished them 3 to 1.

For those of you who have never seen the lures, they are molded, keeled leadheads fitted with a length of surgical tubing that has been split for half its total length. The lure swims vigorously because of the keel. They come in sizes from ½ to 3 ounces and in a variety of colors. Although I've been told by other fisherman that some of the colors that I don't use are potent, I prefer all-white in sizes from ½ to 1½ ounces.

The ungarnished jig works well, but a strip of squid or pork rind on the hook converts the jig into absolute dynamite. How does a surf fisherman carry along a mess of squid strips, you ask? Well, if he stays on the sand it's easy, but if he wades far off the beach it becomes a little tough to be totally self-contained. Still, this problem is always with us. We have managed to find ways to tote along lures, gaffs, lights, stringers, and the like, so why not add one more item? A well-planned and constructed belt is a must for any serious surf-nut, but more about this in another article.

The immediate problem is to gear-up for weaks, so let's take a look at a few of the alternative solutions to the problem of squid strips. An empty pill bottle is a convenient way to carry a half dozen strips in your pocket or lure bag. But I think the problem is solved more satisfactorily by attaching a few empty plastic film canisters to your belt. It's easy!

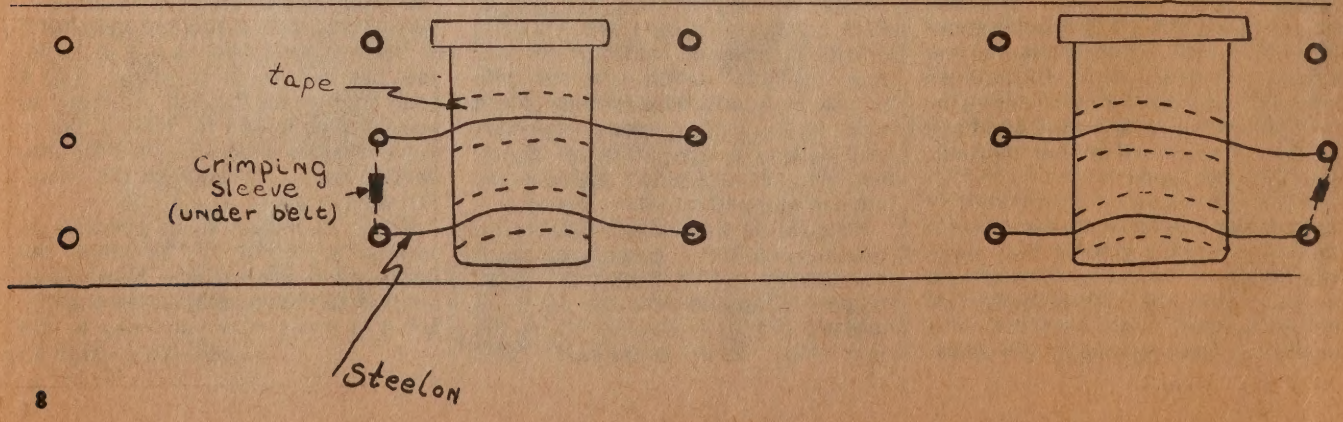
Simply groove a ring into the plastic around the mid-section of the canister with a small rat-tail file. Secure Steelon leader to the belt with a crimping tool and sleeve and then weave the leader material in and out of the brass grommets, going around the canisters. Repeat with a second groove and leader combo slightly above or below the first. Place tape over the Steelon to help keep it stationary. See accompanying diagram.

I urge you to take the trouble to get your hands on local squid, which is far superior to the frozen California variety that is most commonly available. Cut the animals into strips that are as long and as wide as the lure's surgical tubing. Taper the strips on one end. The Whiptail's action is different with the garnish, but the technique for fishing it is almost the same as when you use a Salty Dog or other jig.

When you're fishing over deep holes with mud bottoms, the jig should be allowed to settle towards the bottom and retrieved slowly with either broad sweeps of the rod or short twitches, depending upon the preference of the fish on any given day. However, over open sand beaches the jig should be dragged through the sand with only occasional and gentle twitches of the rod tip. The idea is to try to imitate a shrimp or sand eel wiggling out of the sand.

Unfortunately, you'll probably have a problem finding these lures since they are not as commonly available as the plastic shrimp. It would be well worth your while to check your favorite tackle dealer; if he doesn't have them, he's certain to be able to get them.

Surf Belt Bait Carriers



Whiting Evans

The Casting Gourmet

Ahh, Mackerel!

This week we have a contribution from two of our readers, artists of the range Trudie Sciacca of Valley Stream and Frank Reiser of Oceanside. It concerns two more recipes in which the Boston mackerel plays the most important role. Ms. Sciacca emphasizes the fact that the flesh of this fish should be used for the table only when it is fresh. When it has been frozen or allowed to remain in the ice box for too long, the odor and fishy flavor are far more pronounced.

Up to now, many of the recipes I have mentioned favored the French methods of cooking. Mrs. Sciacca, in keeping with her name, favors the Italian cuisine.

PASTA WITH MACKEREL SAUCE
(LINGUINI)

You'll need the following (for four servings):

2 to 4 mackerel (depending on size)
1 pound macaroni
1 clove garlic
1 medium sized onion
3 tablespoons cooking oil
1 small can tomato paste
1 can (2 lb. 3 oz.) plum tomatoes
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon sugar
black and/or red pepper to taste.
2 teaspoons fennel seeds (optional)

Place the finely chopped onion and garlic in a 3-to 4-quart saucepan with the cooking oil. Cook until onion is soft. Add 1/3 of the can of tomato paste, stirring with a wooden spoon. Using a half-can of the plum tomatoes at a time in a blender, blend until the pulp is dissolved. Add this to the saucepan and stir mixture over a medium heat. You can now add the flavoring, using the fennel seeds if you like. This is your sauce.

Mrs. Sciacca says to add either the whole cleaned mackerel or 4-inch chunks to the sauce, cooking for about 15 minutes. A variation of this would be to add chunks of the filleted fish minus the bones and skin. Serve the fish and the sauce over the boiled and drained macaroni and then sprinkle with parmesan cheese.

MACKEREL PIZZIOLA
(Another of Mrs. Sciacca's recipes.)

6 mackerel
1 can (2 lb. 3 oz.) plum tomatoes
2 tablespoons oregano
1 clove garlic (finely chopped)
1 ounce cooking oil
2 ounces grated Cheddar cheese
salt and pepper to taste

Take each tomato from the can and mash it in a bowl. Add the remaining liquid. Then add the oregano and the garlic, the cooking oil, cheese and salt and pepper. Stir thoroughly and allow to stand for 15 minutes. Now, into an aluminum foil-lined, deep baking dish, place your cleaned (and filleted, if desired) mackerel. Pour the sauce over the fish and cover with more aluminum foil. Now, prick the foil with a fork here and there to allow the steam to escape. Bake in the oven at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Serve immediately with crusty bread and a garden-fresh salad. A jello fruit mold is a good dessert to counteract the spicy fish entree.

MACKEREL IN FOIL
(Submitted by Frank Reiser)

This is a recipe for people who like fish but find mackerel a little too "fishy" tasting. Prepared in the following manner, mackerel will hold its own with any other fish. The recipe below is for one mackerel. Multiply all the ingredients by the number of fish you intend cooking, but be sure each fish is wrapped separately.

1 mackerel
4 slices of bacon
4 thick slices of tomato
1 slice of onion
salt and pepper

Clean and scale the mackerel, removing the head and fins. The skin may be left. In a frying pan, fry the strips of bacon for 3 or 4 minutes to remove most of the fat.

Cut a piece of aluminum foil large enough to wrap up the whole fish. Place the mackerel in the center of the foil and lay the strips of bacon across the body. Break the onion slice into rings and add them over the bacon. Then, cover with the large slices of tomato. Salt and pepper the tomato and close-up the foil. Now place the wrapped fish in a preheated 350° oven and bake for 35 to 45 minutes. Serve the fish right in the aluminum wrapper.

MILD BAKED MACKEREL
(Another recipe from Frank Reiser)

This recipe is for those who object to the strong oily flavor of mackerel.

4 mackerel
1 cup lemon juice
2 lemons
butter
salt and pepper

After cleaning, remove the head, scales and fins. In a good-sized pot containing 4 quarts of water, boil the water and add the cleaned fish. Boil for just five minutes and remove the fish. With a fork peel off the skin and remove the strip of dark flesh which runs the length of the body on both sides. Place the fish in a bowl and pour the lemon juice over the fish, letting them stand for an hour, turning often. Now place the fish in a foil-lined baking pan and cover with pats of butter. Sprinkle salt and pepper over the fish and cover them with lemon slices. Now sprinkle with paprika and place in a preheated 350° oven for 30 minutes.

(Continued from page 7.)

line. You can also cast your rig away from the boat and slowly retrieve. Change the direction of each cast and make an arc around the boat so a large area will be covered.

Chumming from anchor is another proven technique of taking weakfish. The best and most popular chum is grass shrimp, and the technique is covered in depth by Dick Mermon is the article "Shrimping for Weakfish," page 16 this issue.

Bunker chum may be used in the same manner as in bluefishing, but the chum slick should be lighter. Mix the ground bunker with water and make a thin soup that is ladled into the water at regular intervals. Tie a 1/0 beak hook directly to the line, bait up with a piece of bunker or whole sand eel, shrimp or spearing; let the bait drift out in the slick. If the current is running strong and the bait stays near the surface, add a small clinch sinker about two feet above the hook to keep the bait down in the slick.

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CROSSING THE BAR with Don Vetter

The MARINER'S COMPASS

The very heart and soul of the serious boatman's craft is her compass. There may be "Sunday sailors" whose conception of this vital instrument is merely something to lend a nautical flavor to a boat, but the fact remains that the compass is the mariner's best friend.

Learning the essentials of the compass, the forces which govern its behavior and how to apply them in your behalf, comprises a relatively simple and fascinating study. There is nothing mysterious or complex involved in the subject.

From the outset, there is one point that cannot be stressed too strongly: rely on your compass and trust it implicitly. More disasters at sea have occured through a skipper's disbelief in his compass than to the contrary. Granted, the compass is subject to errors, but these errors are easy to determine and either correct or take into account, and having done so the magnetic compass is as reliable an instrument as s fine watch.

The compass responds to the magnetic, rather than the geographical North Pole. The magnetic pole we speak of lies somewhat to the north of Hudson's Bay and its effect on compasses varies with the location of the compass in question. This is one of the two primary errors the compass is subject to, and is known as VARIATION.

Today, compasses are almost exclusively divided into 360 degrees, with only the cardinal points (north, east, south and west) designated. This "navy type" card is the easiest to work with and there are few mariners left who can "box the compass" (name all the points and ¼ points - "North northeast by a quarter east," for example). The graduations may be by 1, 2 or 5 degrees; the degree breakdown being the most popular as it is easiest to read. Few small craft can be steered much closer than that, anyhow.

The are so many types of compass available to the boatman today that it is not surprising the uninitiated may choose one unsuitable for the application he has in mind. Regardless of size and price factors, there are two basic types of compass card on the market; the flat (which is often not perfectly "flat"), and the domed or direct reading card.

Notwithstanding the easy-reading qualities of the domed card, and the fact that they are often the less expensive of the two, the flat card is the one to buy, for they are inherently more stable and therefore more accurate than their domed counterparts.

There are specially modified compasses for sailboats (whose greater heel requires a different set-up), steel-hulled vessels (since their magnetic field requires a great deal more compensation), and boats wherein necessity dictates mounting in a location adjacent to electrical wiring or electronic instruments which may produce great deviation on inter-cardinal headings (turning 180° from a north to a south course, for example). This DEVIATION is the second error to which magnetic compasses are subject to, and we will deal with it in a moment.

Typical small-craft compass, with flat card and external gimbals, marked in 5° graduations.

The mounting of the compass on your boat is of primary importance in that several factors must be taken into consideration. First and foremost, the lubberline must be EXACTLY parallel to the keel, since it represents the ship's heading, and great care must be exercised in taking measurements to be sure it does indeed lie so. Easy visibility for the man at the helm is of obvious importance, so a position on the control console on boats so equipped, or the instrument panel are logical mounting points.

In any case, the compass should be placed just forward to the wheel. Any ferrous (iron-based, such as steel) metal close to the compass will adversely effect it, so care should be taken to avoid this situation.

Electrical circuitry creats a magnetic field of its own, so the compass should be placed to avoid any. Since this is not always possible due to the fact that so much wiring is often found amidst the instruments near the helm position, the magnetic effect may be negated by twisting the negative and positive wires around each other. Enclosing both wires with a single, shielded cable will also solve this problem.

Now we return to the problem of compass errors discussed earlier. Of the two, variation, the tendency to the compass to point to the magnetic pole, is the easiest to deal with. The purist will invariably enter the true (T) course on his chart and then apply the variation in determining the course to steer, adding westerly variation, subtracting easterly variation. Example: True course = 156°, variation = 12° west, course to steer = 168°. Most of us lazy mariners will just use the inner (magnetic) ring on the compass rose of the chart to save time.

Deviation, the error caused by magnetic fields produced aboard the boat by the proximity of masses of ferrous metal such as the engine, is a bit more difficult to deal with, as the amount of deviation—and even the direction—may vary widely as course changes bring the metal masses into a different position relative to the compass needle. The deviation may be 2 or 3° west with the boat on a northerly heading and 10° or 12° east on a southerly course.

The only way to allow for deviation without touching the compass is to

make up a deviation table by running the boat on a series of KNOWN magnetic courses and observing the amount and direction of error on each heading all around the compass. The results may be entered in a simple table with the amount of deviation on EVERY COURSE entered.

Deviation error is applied the same way as is variation error; i.e., added for westerly and subtracted for easterly going from chart course to course to steer. Example: True course = 221°, variation + 7° west (add) = 228° Magnetic, deviation on course 228°—11° east (subtract) = 217°, the course to steer.

Making up a deviation table is an arduous chore and it still leaves you with the necessity of performing mental gymnastics afloat. For all practical purposes, the average boatman must compensate his compass and eliminate deviation error altogether. If he lacks the time to do it himself, compass adjusters stand ready to do it for him (see the L.I.F. classified).

If you decide to adjust your own compass, there is really no great mystery about it. All reputable compasses are equipped with integral adjusting magnets which alter deviation as their angle is changed by turning the adjusting screws.

When the compass comes out of its box, the magnets are in the neutral position and have no effect on the compass. All you really need to know are the actual magnetic courses; you may determine these by means of charted ranges, following another boat with a compensated compass or in any manner you choose.

Begin by proceeding due (magnetic) north at cruising speed with all equipment which might affect the compass in use. Check the compass and, using a brass (non-magnetic) screwdriver, turn the north-south adjusting screw till you remove all the errors. Now swing to an east (or west) heading and turn the east-west screw till you remove ONE-HALF the error. Repeat the process on a south heading, remove ONE-HALF the error.

Repeat the process again and again on various courses, removing one-half the error each time till you are satisfied that your compass is accurate within a degree or so (which is as close as most of us can steer anyhow).

Working from the magnetic ring on the chart's compass rose with a compensated compass is delightfully simple, and leaves your mind free for more important things—like fishing.

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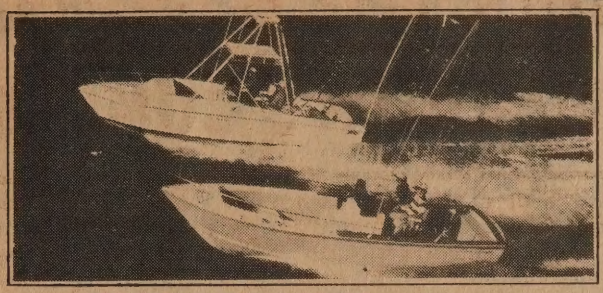

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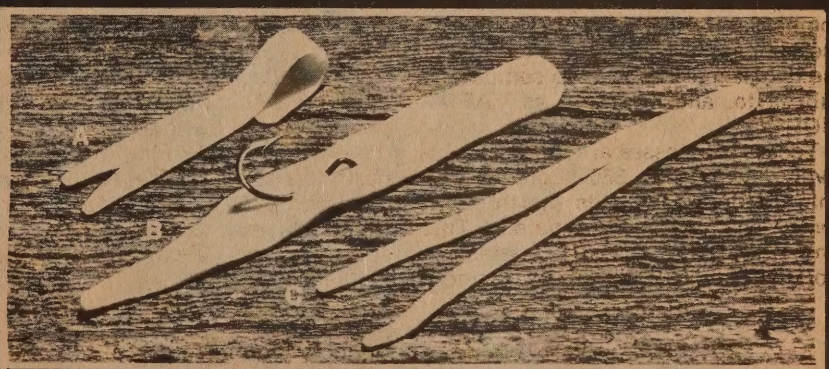

A. BASS STRIP 4" x 3/8"
B. STRIPER HOOK STRIP 5¼" x 5/8" — 3/0
C. STRIPER SPLIT TAIL 5" x 3/8"

These Uncle Josh pork rind strips grew up brawling with big, salt water game fishes. They've taken bluefin tuna off the coast of Newfoundland; seatrout, stripers and blues, wherever they're found; cobia, tarpon, mackerel and snook in tropical waters and yellowtail in the Baja and southern California. They are tough, have the firm texture of live bait. Natural flesh, they're extremely life-like in action. And, they'll go anywhere, anytime, in any water, take all kinds of punishment and go back for more. They adapt to jigs, plugs, squids, bait rigs, spinners, spoons, plain hooks and feathers. Packed in jars in up to 8 colors, they're the most reasonable baits you can buy. *Send* 25¢ for our new pork rind catalog. Dept. SS.

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Little Neck Bay Hotspots

by Kenneth Hlovacek

Here is some additional information about Little Neck Bay; it may help some fisherman quite a bit. The enclosed map will just about guarantee fish—maybe quite a few!

(A) Behind the Fort: good on incoming tide with a fish-finder rig. This spot is very rocky and holds bass all year 'round. A very likely spot to take the first fish of the year.

(B) A good spot only at high tide. Fish worms on the bottom early in the year. Bucktails, Rebels and Alous, from May 1, through the end of the month, are terrific.

(c) Some fish taken along here at the top of the incoming tide. A bottom rig is used.

(D) A good spot for a surfcaster at high tide at night. Naturally, a bottom rig with worms.

(E) Fishing this mud flat at high tide at night by boat can produce countless numbers of bass. You may hit a good-sized fish here. Being quiet is all-important. The fish move in on the flats warmed by the sun in the daytime.

Drifting a worm on a light spin rod with a 1/0 hook is best. The worm is hooked through the head, not threaded up the shank. The lively sandworm will give off vibrations that will attract a fish sooner. This area has fish from the trestle out of area (D).

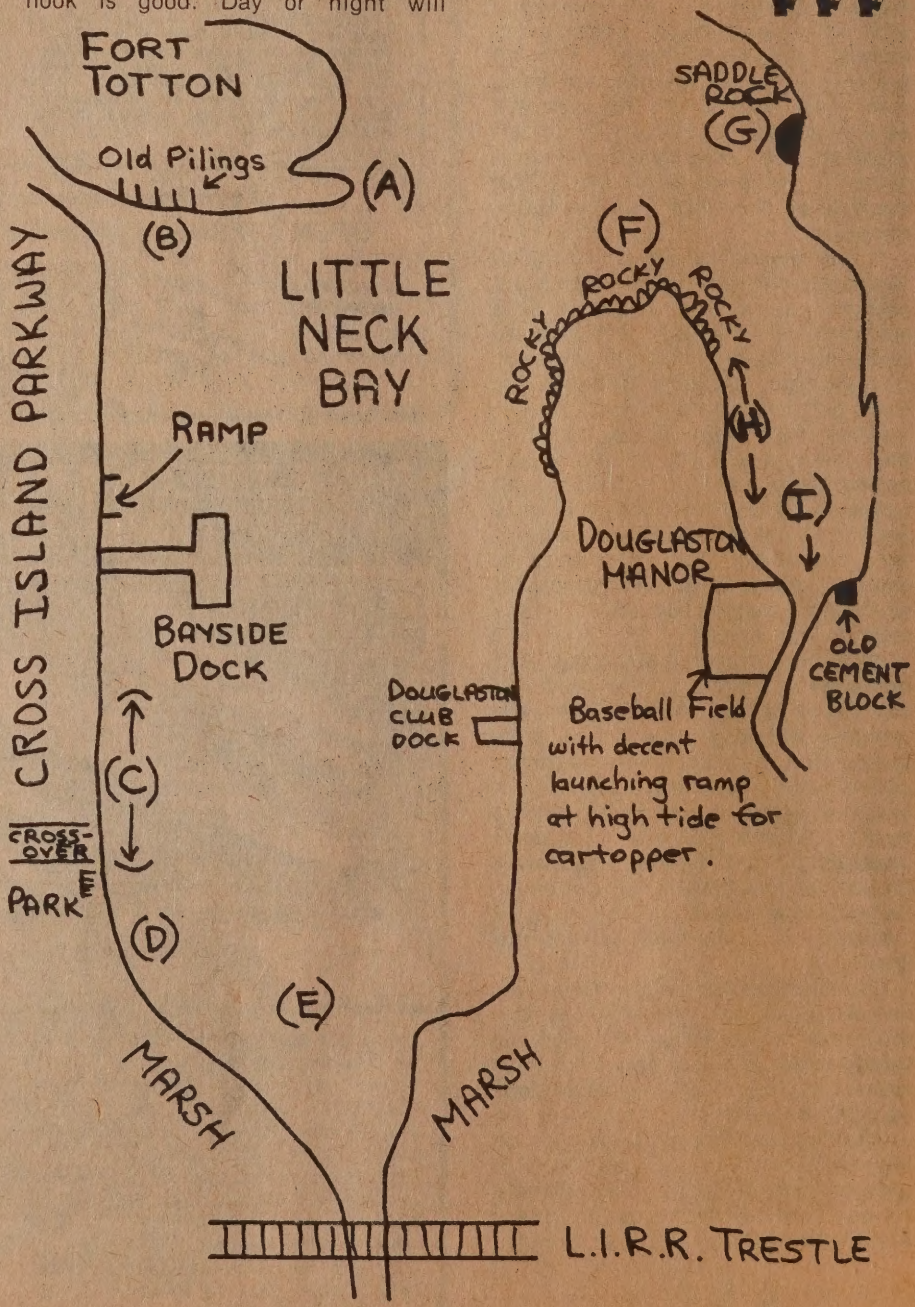
(F) This location is good the entire month of May. No bait is used. The fishing is very good on a gentle NW wind. High tide is the only time to fish. I've taken as many as 13 keepers here in an hour—this spot is very reliable. Lures used are yellow and white bucktails, Alous, even small plastic shrimp lures work. It's better during the daytime than at night.

(G) This is Big Rock, pretty well-known. Casting with a bottom rig will produce at night, but for some reason I have found that fishing here on incoming at night will get you only a few bass. The fish taken are ones moving into Peterson's Cove mud flats.

(H) This spot is very good for a small boat or even a rubber raft. Drifting at high tide with one lively sandworm can be deadly on bass. There are some big fish here: I got one of 27 pounds one night a few years ago, and have seen other boatmen with fish in the 20's and 30's. Had Mitchell 300 with 12 lb. test stripped here one night because I was alone and could not chase down the fish. Absolute quiet is necessary here (no motors).

(I) Very good surfcasting if you can find somebody to let you through his back yard (I did). Incoming tide with a bottom rig with a few worms on your hook is good. Day or night will produce. You can dig your own worsm along here at low tide, then fish the first 3 hours of incoming tide. After that it dies. I've never been skunked here.

I hope this article will help some fellow bass addicts. I'm not a writer, but a guy just trying to past on some reliable information.



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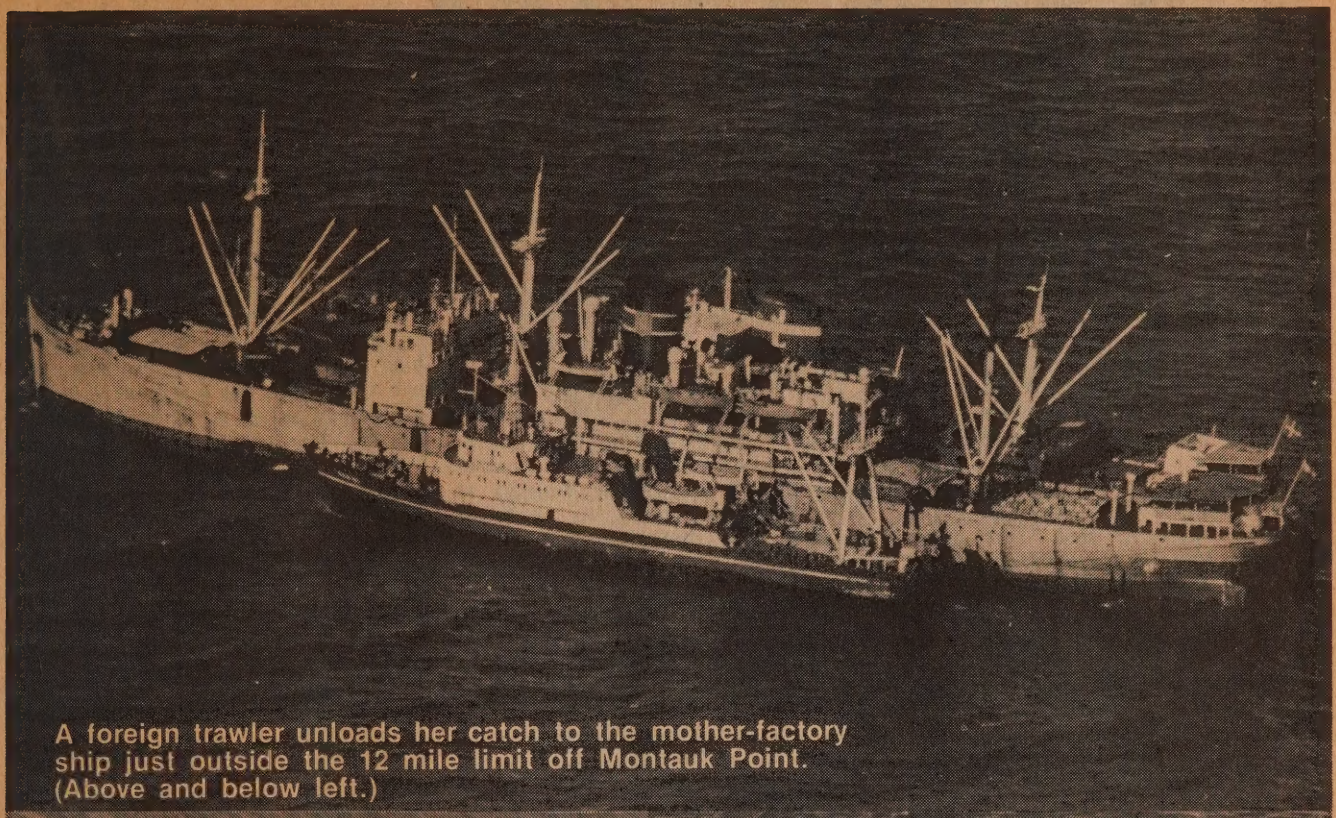
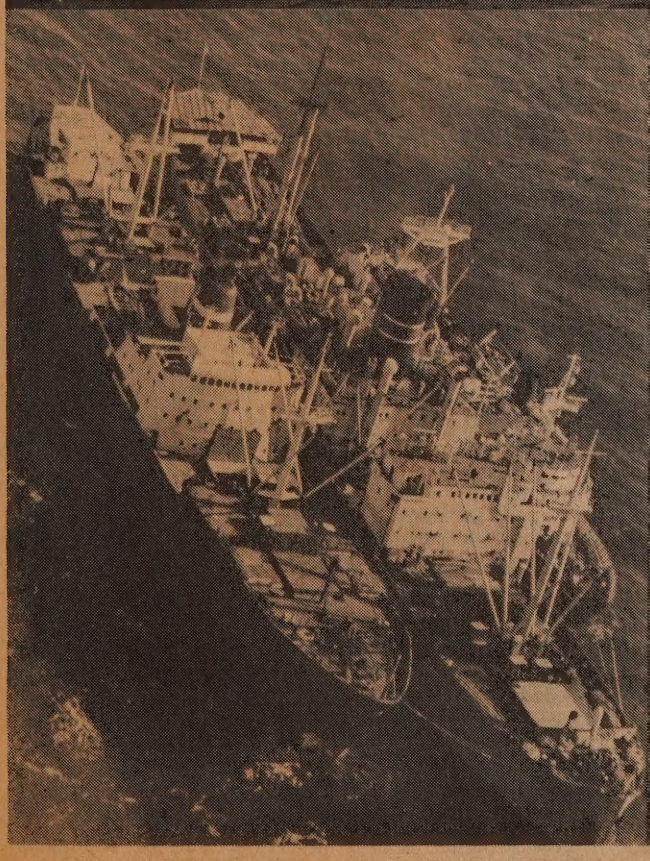


A foreign trawler unloads her catch to the mother-factory ship just outside the 12 mile limit off Montauk Point. (Above and below left.)



In comparison, this is one American vessel working the same area.

CREDITS: All photos were supplied courtesy of Ed Miller, owner of Westlake Fishing Lodge in Montauk.

Mackerel

by Matt Ahern

If you're never gone mackerel fishing, you've missed out on what may possibly be some of the wildest fishing of your angling career. It will take but one successful trip to convince you that mackerel fishing is terrific sport.

The average mackerel caught off Long Island weighs a pound to a pound and a half, which means it isn't necessary to use heavy tackle. Conventional tackle with 15-pound mono is adequate.

I often use twenty pound mono when fishing a combination diamond jig and mackerel tree, but never anything heavier since mackerel are line-shy. When a jig along is used, ten pound test is better still.

Spinning outfits aren't recommended for party boat fishing. Mackerel are tough scrappers for their size and when two or three are hooked simultaneously, which is a common occurence when using a mackerel tree, spinning tackle will make it quite difficult to avoid entangling your neighbor's rigs. Use this tackle only aboard private or charter craft.

Fishermen use a variety of lures to catch mackerel, but most use the old and proven diamond jig. This isn't to imply other lures won't work. Just be sure whatever you're using is heavy enough to get down to the feeding fish. Weights can run from one to four ounces, but I find those of two ounces best. They are easier to handle and mackerel favor them.

Mackerel trees are great fish catchers when weighted with a jig. Don't use an ordinary sinker to do this. It is the flash of the jig which attracts mackerel to these lures.

Occasionally, I've happened upon a mackerel school and found myself without one of these multi-hook rigs on board. But all was not lost.

I made my own by using a diamond jig for weight and attraction and securing four tinned, unsnelled 2/0 O'Shaughnessy hooks to the main line.

This was easily accomplished by forming 3-inch double-over-hand knotted loops eight inches apart. Each loop was fed through the hook eye, then over the hook and drawn up tightly. These loops became the snells and also served to hold the hooks out from the main line. If you'd like to try this, be sure your hooks have a bright finish. Bronzed hooks leave much to be desired.

Short, narrow strips of white rag can also be placed on these hooks as enticers, but it isn't necessary. Mackerel have no qualms about striking bare hooks. This quickly-made gizmo works like a charm. Just be sure to give it plenty of action by jigging.

The beginning mackerel fisherman is often frustrated as he watches veteran anglers hooking double and triple-headers with ease. He's double-checked and knows his rigging is right; he's also doing his share of jigging. Still the fish refuse to respond.

What's wrong?

The answer is simple: Fishing isn't being done at the proper depth. If the lure isn't at this all-important level, few mackerel will be caught. The fisherman can seek this information from those who are catching fish. This, of course, is the easiest but not necessarily the best method.

When you don't know the correct depth, it's best to allow the lure to reach bottom and begin a moderate retrieve, jigging all the while until the first mackerel is hooked. When this happens, the line should be given a dab of quick-drying marker ink. The temptation to use knots instead of ink for marking is great, but don't do it. Knots weaken the mono, are difficult to intie, and will leave a potential line-breaking kink. And knots often become enmeshed on the reel's spool, causing no end of trouble.

As mackerel will strike any shiny object flashed before them, it's best to forget the hardware when rigging and tie your jig or mackerel tree directly to the line, using an Improved Clinch knot. Barrel swivels and snaps can be purchased in a dull finish if the ease of convenience they afford is felt to be necessary; but you'll catch more mackerel without them.

When fishing aboard a party or charter boat, locating mackerel is left to the captain and crew. But how does the private fisherman go about finding his own mackerel school? No problem.

Most mackerel fishing is done over open bottom in depths ranging from forty to one hundred feet, with a happy medium of fifty feet being best. Especially is this so during the early part of the run. Rock-strewn bottoms such as exist on the Cholera and 17 Fathom banks are good, but mackerel fishing over wrecks is seldom worthwhile unless in deep water.

You'll find fishing is best when the sea is fairly calm. A flat sea with a slight wind-rippled surface is often called a "mackerel sea" by the old-timers, and with good reason. Watch for concentrations of sea birds such as gulls and diving gannets. They are a sure sign there is activity below. Especially is this so when these birds appear reluctant to leave the area as you approach.

Mackerel are easily frightened, so don't barge up to any spot you have reason to believe contains a school. Better to work to windward or uptide and drift to the spot, getting the anchor over a quietly as possible. Wait until the boat settles, then get the mossbunker chum going.

This pre-ground chum is usually purchased in frozen blocks and should be prepared prior to fishing by mixing in a container of sea water. Stir to the consistency of thin soup and sporadically ladle overboard into the tide. A suitable can holding about a pint, nailed or bolted to a flat stick, makes an excellent dispenser.

Proper chumming is learned by experience only, but a good way to get them started is by ladling a half dozen scoops of chum out about ten feet into the tide. Then add two or three scoops directly alongside and begin fishing. Replenish the chum line every few minutes, using no more than a scoop or two until the fish respond.

Once the fish start, someone should sweeten the chum line occasionally. Keep in mind that if too large a break in the chum line is allowed, the fish will leave for greener pastures.

Action should start within ten minutes, but don't become discouraged if it doesn't. Never be in too much of a hurry to leave a chummed area. Keep those jigs working at various depths and be ready with the marker ink.

Another method that often produces well it to drift along slowly, jigging the lure in two-foot sweeps until several mackerel are caught in rapid succession. Lower the anchor quietly and chum as noted before. This works especially well when mackerel are hard to locate on the surface.

Some fishermen troll for mackerel when chum is in short supply. Heavier jigs are used for this, those about eight ounces being preferred. It is

sometimes necessary to add a small, narrow strip of squid or fish bait. The secret is to troll slowly, trailing the lure at least 150 feet astern. Jigging is important. Lowering the rod tip when the strike is felt is sometimes helpful. This creates slack and assures a hooked fish.

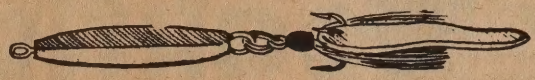
Mackerel often quit hitting lures after biting hot and heavy for several hours. Often thousands can be seen miling around and feeding on the chum a foot below the surface. This is exasperating to say the least, but the veteran fisherman is not dismayed. He knows that now is the time to use bait.

Remove the jig and mackerel tree and attach a number nine or ten flounder hook. To the snell, just before the hook, add a couple split-shot and bait with several bunker hearts found in the chum can. Small pieces of mackerel belly will also work; be sure they are tiny.

Strip the line from the reel and allow the bait to drift with the tide. You won't get the smashing strike you received when using lures. All you'll feel is a light pick, but that's your signal to strike. If you thought mackerel were good scrappers before, wait until you hook one with this method. You may never want to fish mackerel any other way.

Cleaning is easy and scaling isn't necessary. Cut off the head first and run the knife through the gut area to the vent. Innards are removed in seconds.

Remember, once that first mackerel is caught, a bonanza is sure to follow. No one catches just one mackerel during mackerel time!



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Shrimping For Weakfish

by Dick Mermon

In days past there were no Tout Tails, Salty Dogs, Viking Shrimp, or any of the plastic lures to catch weakfish. The main baits were the sand or grass shrimp and blood or sand worms. But now, the art of "shrimping," along with the long-absent weaks, is making its comeback.

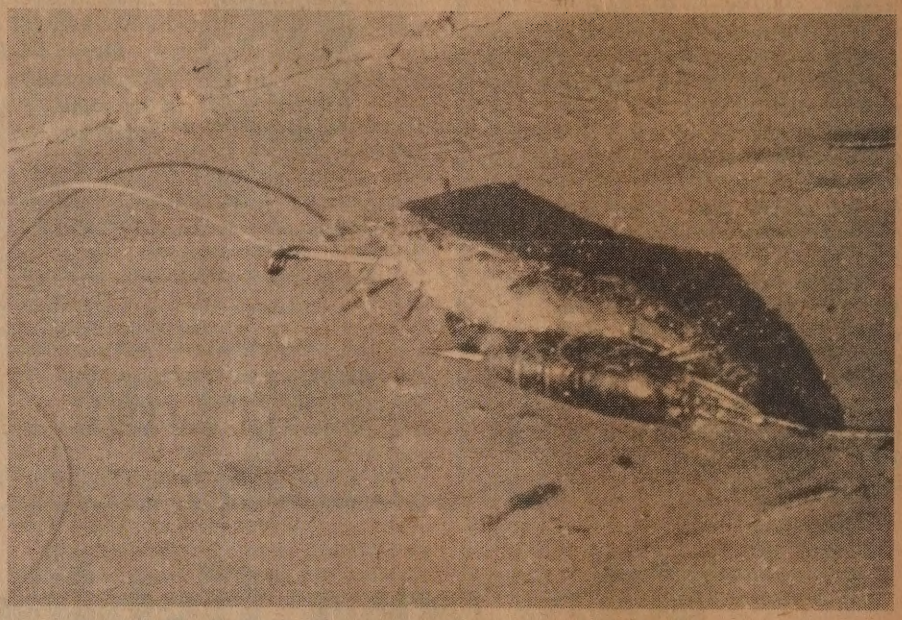
Back in the "Rearing Twenties" the use of sand and grass shrimp for bait and chum was the rage. It was the secret weapon used by both party boat skippers and private fishermen.

Tremendous catches of weakfish were taken by this method and as long as the shrimp lasted, so did the fish. Then, the era of DDT arrived. Its effectiveness was so great that not only did it wipe out the insects for which it was intended, it contaminated our waters as well. This insecticide caused a reduction in the plant and crustacean life of our bays.

Following the passage of laws to ban the use of this chemical, the waters slowly began to flush themselves out. Each year the bay areas became cleaner. Species of plant and fish which were a rarity are once again on the upswing. One of these species is the weakfish.

Everyone believed the loss of the eel grass was the cause for the lack of weaks; no one thought about the loss of their favorite feed, the grass or sand shrimp. Today, not only has the weakfish returned in great numbers, so have the shrimp.

Back in the good old days the shrimp had to be used the same day or kept alive in special carts. Today, the very same bait can be frozen, later bought, thawed and used as though it were fresh-caught. The frozen bait works almost as well, but fresh items always taste better and are more natural in smell, shape and size.



The bitter end of the rig consists of a 1/0 hook baited with two shrimp.

To fish with shrimp for one full tide requires at least three to four quarts of them—fresh or frozen. If they are fresh, they must be kept in clean water at all times when fishing. If there is any trace of oil or gasoline in the water, the shrimp will die.

The best way to maintain live shrimp is the use of a floating cart simular to a killie cart. Instead of the standard wooden slats or large-hole screening on the bottom of the killie-cart, fine screening should be used. This will prevent the shrimp from escaping, yet still provide them with adequate water flow.

If you cannot obtain fresh shrimp, the frozen type will do, but let them thaw in their containers or in a bucket. Do not thaw them out in water because they will become soft and mushy. As the shrimp are thawing out, pick out the largest and place them to one side; they will be used on the hook.

Setting up a chum-line is sometimes a problem. Places to look for are at the heads of deep holes in the bays, alongside the banks of the bay shoreline, at the mouths of feeder outlets, or at deep drop-offs where two channels cross. In these locations, the current must be moving enough to carry the chum (shrimp tossed into the water) downstream, creating a chum line.

Some of the more productive locations for weakfish in the imme-

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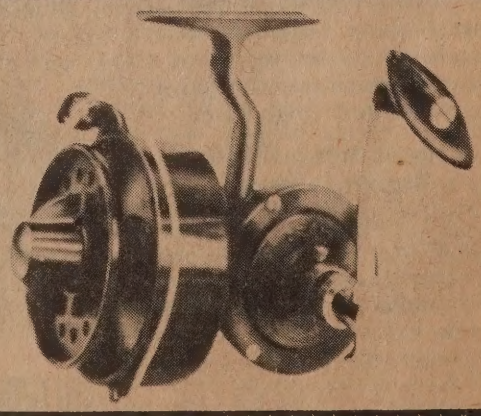

diate areas are: the east-west cut in back of Amityville Channel, the deep holes in the State Channel in back of Gilgo and Tobay, off the tip of the golf course in back of Merrick Bay, Swift Creek, Macy's Channel in Woodmere Bay, the entrance to Zack's Bay and the deep holes off Heckscher State Park.

Chumming should be done with great care. At first, the fresh or defrosted shrimp are flipped into the water, about a dozen at a time. Watch the shrimp as they disappear in the current. When they are out of sight, flip in more. Continue this until you get the first hit. Now cut the chum down to six or eight at a time, but at the same rate.

As soon as there are swirls in the slick, or fish are taken, slow the chumming down to one or two shrimp flipped in at a time. This will keep the weakfish nearby, and should be enough to hold them in the slick and feeding on the baited hooks.

The hook used could be from a number eight to a number one. The lightest of wire hooks, such as the Mustad Viking style, are the best. Hooks that are made of heavy wire or stainless steel will cause the bait to sink faster than the chum, which is a condition you must avoid.

One large shrimp is all that is required on the hook. If the shrimp are small, place one onto the shank of the hook and another over the barb to cover the point.

Split-shot are not a necessary item for this type of fishing. The bait has to be presented as a natural one. Weight is to be used only when the current is running fairly fast. Everything has to be just right for shrimping.

In order to enjoy the fight of the fish, light tackle should be employed. The lighter the better. Spinning or light casting tackle is at its best for weakfish; in fact, fresh water anglers will do well with their regular tackle. Limber rods are used because of the weak mouth tissues of the fish: The hook is set with the pressure of the bent rod rather than with a quick jerk.

Line should be of the lightest practical breaking strengths it depends upon the fisherman behind the rod as to the pound test he or she is most comfortable with. Remember, though, the lighter the better.

Years ago, before spinning, there was a group of men that fished for weaks with cotton thread instead of the then-standard linen line. They were known as the "Cotton Thread Club" of Fire Island. Many of the old timers that have never given up shrimping for weakfish still use the old style, conventional equipment. Instead of cotton thread, however, they use twelve pound test nylon such as that used in fresh water bait casting.

Along with their old fashioned, fish-producing ideas, they use a rod not longer than their arms, very light and very limp. Two reasons for this: One is that they can play a big weak easier with a limp rod and not pull the hook out of the tender mouth.

The second is, when the fish come into the chum line they will stay a certain distance off the stern. The ol' timer remembers the distance where the fish struck by the lengths of line he has counted off the reel, from the rod tip to the butt. Once the fish distance is located, all that is done is to reach up to the tip of the rod with one hand and strip off so many rod-lengths into the water. The bait is then held there in position, awaiting the strike.

A last item of necessity is a landing net, and a deep one at that. Never try to lift a weakfish from the water by the rod or the line. Many tide-runners have been lost because a careless fisherman did not use a net to boat the fish.

Shrimping is not at all as difficult as it may seem. If one follows directions and tries it a few times, the rewards will be great. And given the right exposure, it may recover some of its former popularity.

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Great South Bay Weakfish

Catching Weaks in the Babylon and Islip Areas

by "Doc" Grell

Part I

If there is any area within the last couple of years that can be called the "Weakfish Capital of the World," it has to be that area of the Great South Bay off the towns of Babylon and Islip, Long Island. This fact can be attested to by the thousands of fishermen who, during the past two years, caught thousands of these beautiful sea trout ranging in weight from a pound to tremendous tide-runners in the eight-to 13-pound classifications, among which can be found the present International Game Fish Association World Record weakfish for 6 lb. test line for both men and women.

WHAT ARE THESE FISH?

These very sporty, light tackle gamefish have been given the very inappropriate name, "weakfish."Weakfish are a tremendously hard-hitting, savage-fighting fish which, pound for pound, easily hold their own with other species of game fish in the same weight categories. Tied in with their great fighting ability is the strange fact that these fish are blessed with tender, thin mouth tissue (an evolutionary adaptation for survival, undoubtedly) which makes angling and fishing for them a great challenge and an art unto itself, especially when you tag into one of around ten pounds on 6-pound test line with a bait casting rod and reel.

In a nutshell, weakfishing calls for extreme patience and eliminates all those exaggerated "pump-and-grind-'em-in" fishermen who are used to catching harder-mouthed game fish such as bluefish and striped bass. If you cannot eliminate the "pump-and-grind" routine from your angling for weakfish, you are going to be a loser. In no way will a weakfish's mouth—which is easily torn—ever stand up to this habit.

In addition, weakfish have developed the very wise and shrewd habit of swimming toward your boat when caught, and that presents you with the dilemma of "did he leave, is he gone, what the ...!". Several moments after "Willie the Weak" has completed his reverse run you will be rewarded with two phenomena: a slight snap, a pop! (my line when breaking sounds like a weak cap pistol going off); and your answer, "Willie has taken off with my Salty Dog". Augie Principe loves this phenomenon, as does Jim Bagley.

At any rate weakfish, common sea trout, squeteague or **Cynoscion regalis** are a schooling fish for the most part. They feed inshore over sandy bottoms, especially in tidal inlets and bays such as those of our Great South Bay. Some get into brackish waters and even go far up rivers. To see them swimming in a school is a thrilling experience: They are fast and graceful swimmers.

They are a truly beautiful fish. Their color is silvery, with their backs a light olive color. Dorsal fins are dusky and the ventral and anal fins yellow. Spots or blotches form wavy lines running up and back from their lateral line sensors. Put them all together and they indeed create a spectacular fish.

Shapewise, most weakfish have a fairly large head with a large mouth, a projecting lower jaw with large canine teeth in the uppers. Their overall body for the most part is slim and trim, with the exception of those sow weaks that are making their spawning runs early in the year. They are indeed big, fat sea trout, and catching them separates the anglers from the "loaded with gingerbread, snaps, swivels, teasers and bottom sinker-whackers."

Seasonally, weakfish come into our bays in April and remain with us through the summer into late October as shallow water inhabitants. In October and early November weakfish begin to regroup in the neighboring waters off-shore in preparation for their winter migration. This past fall weakfish by the thousands could be seen schooling in the waters off Gilgo Beach (15 to 55 feet) in preparation for their southerly trek. Matter of fact, many of these weakfish nibbled and chewed away at bunker (menhaden) while local striped bass fisherman were drifting live bunkers in ocean waters.

WHERE THEY CAN BE FOUND IN THE BABYLON-ISLIP GREAT SOUTH BAY AREA

See accompanying chart for areas marked with "W." All of these locations at a given time are excellent weakfishing areas. Inasmuch as any chart has obvious limitations owing to size of page, reprinting, etc., it is imperative that any prospective weakfisherman purchase U.S. Department of Commerce Chart No. 120-SC for this area, which is available at most marine supply stores. This chart is a navigational chart giving you depths as well as the area's geomorphology. You will want to mark it with "W's" as I have, as well as begin to keep an accurate log of which locations, times and tides are the most productive for you.

Weakfish apparently like a wide variety of bottoms ranging from those which are muddy, sandy and shelly to those of hard ocean sand. More important than the nature of the bottom is what is swimming over the bottom: small squid, shiners, worms and grass shrimp. I have found that where you find swarms of grass shrimp swimming around, especially in May and June, you will sooner or later find your friend the weakfish.

In this regard, do not be afraid to occasionally look into the water to see what is happening, even to the extent of taking along with you a barrel with a glass bottom, or a mask and snorkel if you are the "Cousteau type." I assume that if you go this route and jump into Great South Bay in April, May or June, you wear the proper attire—which means at least a ¼-inch complete wet suit or a complete dry suit. With water temperatures ranging from 43 degres Fahrenheit into the 50 degrees range, depending upon whether it is late April, May or June, you certainly will not want to become part of the ecology of the Bay and become the object of a "Sea Hunt" rescue operation.

HOW YOU CAN CATCH THEM

Weakfish may be caught employing a wide variety of techniques. Each has certain advantages and disadvantages. In briefly describing each technique I shall describe the major disadvantage of each method, which at the outset will focus upon the amount of labor involved as contrasted with maximum fish yield.

SURFACE OR TOP FISHING WITH GRASS SHRIMP. This method involves either buying such (hard to get), or collecting your own. To be blunt: This involves work on your part; such as purchasing a very fine net, finding out where the shrimp are, netting such and, assuming of course that you have enough to begin shrimping with, to actually undergo the shrimping procedure which is to chum with handsfull or soup ladles of shrimp into the water as you are fishing for them with shrimp, plastic shrimp, squid strips, worms or what have you. In plain English, this involves a lot of work!

If you go this route your rewards can be very good, but I have found this method involves to much work and too many shrimp for the overall results. Old timers will swear by this method which was, in the days prior to the wide variety of plastic shrimp that are today available, probably one of the better ones.

An alternative method of shrimping might be to light up the water around your boat at night, attract the grass shrimp and then cast a variety of lures into the swarming shrimp. I have done this at well-lighted marinas and gas docks, as well as from my own boat with a underwater light, with fair success. The disadvantages are obvious. It is pure night fishing for the most part. This is not prime time for weakfishing and, when you do catch them, much of the thrill of the actual catch is lost in playing "blind man's bluff."

On the other hand, if you prefer to be a phantom, this procedure has its advantages of privacy. One-handed spinning rods, light bay rods and fresh water bait casting rods can be employed for top fishing. You can't miss with a light 6' bay rod and 1/0 reel.

TROLLING WITH BAIT AND LURES. At very slow speeds you can troll a wide variety of artificial lures ranging from plastic shrimp (Salty Dog's, Touts), Glow Worms, small Psychosquids, small bucktails, No Alibis' Smiling Bills', etc., to live worms, small pieces of squid strips, and very small bunker. I have found this method to be moderately successful very early in the season (May and June), before the various algae begin to bloom. Even at this time of year the slow-troller will be beset with the pesky bay "grass" which will spoil the action as well as hide the lure. When this occurs, considerable time will be spent in resetting your lines. A 6' to 7' light bay rod with a 1/0 or 2/0 reel is ideal for trolling.

SURF FISHING. This method, which involves casting into the surf a variety of artificial lures (diamond jigs, metal squids, bucktails, spinners and spoons, plastic shrimp. etc.) sandworms, blood worms, shedder crabs, killies, squid and pieces of bunker, has the major disadvantage that weakfish for the most part spend very little time in the surf areas during the period of time they are with us on Long Island. However, there are those fisherman who say this is the only way to catch weaks. If one is without boat, than this obviously is the only and best method. For the surf, a light to medium rod and reel (you pick the length) is ideal.

BETTER METHODS FROM BOATS. Bottom Fishing. For this type of fishing—from a rowboat or party boat—you should purchase a medium-action rod and a bay-sized 2/0 reel of the conventional type. It will become very obvious. that the long, light casting rod will not work satisfactorily when it is bent into a pretzel by a heavy sinker. In bottom fishing, a bay-sized reel gives you the best control of baits fished off the bottom.

The usual bottom rig which I employ very successfully involves one hook tied about 5 inches above the sinker with another hook tied 1½ to 2 feet above that, both hooks on leaders from 16 to 20 inches long. Stiff, heavy monofilament employed for the hook leaders helps in eliminating wrap-arounds which will occur when you don't

use swivels. I am a firm believer that the less hardware you have on your terminal tackle, the less tendency you will have to spook weakfish, which are rather flighty and suspicious around a lot of terminal hardware.

Instead of swivels I prefer plastic connectors in setting up my terminal tackle. Hooks employed in this type of fishing are quite small and range in numbers from 1/0 to 5/0, O'Shaughnessy or Eagle Claw types. I have probably caught more weakfish with hooks of the 1/0 size.

For bait, the most successful on Long Island for bottom fising is squid cut into strips about 4 inches long, no more than ¾-inch wide. The squid is hooked just once in the broad end. Do not bunch up the squid for the simple reason that this procedure eliminates the life-like rippling action. Squid strips should be tapered with the broad end tied to the hook. Three to six-ounce sinkers are employed to hold bottom.

You can do many things with bait fished on the bottom. You can let it sit in one place, which is favored in spring fishing; or you can bottom-bounce and jiggle the line slightly to keep the strips in motion; or you can again and again try a slow, continual reeling-in of the baited hooks just off the bottom. At any rate, try all procedures and settle on the one that is most productive for you.

Note that this type of rig will often produce double-headers, but it has been my experience that this type of rig will never produce two tide-runners at the same time. Thus,when big fish are around, the bottom hook can be taken off without any loss to maximum catch. Some of my friends take off the top hook and replace it with a metal spinner or white streamer fly.

In catching all weakfish, remember it is imperative that you employ a net in boating them. The crazy flip-flops of these weakmouthed creatures does not lend itself to you swinging them aboard like bluefish. Also—for the preceeding methods of fishing—do not use heavy test line; no more than 20 lb. test for bottom fishing, surf and trolling.

THE METHOD WHICH I CONSIDER BEST FOR WEAKFISHING. In catching hundreds of weakfish over the past several years, the method which I consider best and most rewarding from all aspects (maximum fight from the fish, minimum work involved, least expense and maximum maneuverability) is that which involes the employment of a rod and reel which is quite light. For a rod I employ a very light bait casting rod (3-ounce Daiwa No. 4031—6 feet long) which has an extremely whippy and sensitive tip. My reel is a small Penn Spin reel No. 720, filled with 6 lb. Dorado (Vic Dunaway) IGFA test line. You have a wide variety of fresh water baitcasting rods and reels to choose from, as well as those of the salt water variety. All I am suggesting is that to get maximum pleasure in the fight with weaks, it is imperative that you "go light."

If you are not interested in going the 6 lb. test line route, which will cost you artificial lures, you can always spool on 8 lb. test, 10 lb. test or 12 lb. test line which will save you money in lures, but cut down on your casting ability from an anchored or drifting boat. At any rate, you be the selector and, if you are a beginner with light spin-tackle, probably 10 lb. test line will be your best bet until you have experienced the crazy forward and reverse runs of eight to 13 pound weakfish which on light tackle will give you all the excitement that you will ever receive from small gamefish.

For a boat, I find my best floating platform to be a Boston Whaler 13' model, or any small power boat or row boat of that size-range which gives you stand-up ability as well as the maneuverability to get into the Great South Bay flats.

You do not need 15 to 20 feet of water to catch these fish. Matter of fact, my most fun has been had, and my biggest fish taken, from shallow water drains with water depths no greater than four feet. It is in this depth of water, where weaks connot sound (dive down), that you will experience your greatest thrills from weakfish; they will head out horizontally, this way and that way, when they are hooked. It is also in these areas of shallow water that you will learn what the drag and the light rod is all about. If you are a pump-and-grinder here, you will be a lost soul in the weakfishing category.

For locations, consult the chart and proceed to a shallow water area off Dickerson Channel or just north of Sexton Island. Look for shrimp, birds, swirls and the occasional flops of weaks, and begin a drift by casting a 5/16th ounce Pink or Amber Salty Dog (tied directly to your line with an Improved Clinch knot) until you get a strike. Tide and current, as well as whether you move out or with the fish, will determine if you will anchor for your fish or continue to drift.

Oh yes, I have found the top of the incoming tide to be the best time for catching weaks, just before dark. Early morning with the same conditions rates second best. Outgoing tide for me has never been the most productive.

Lures of the artificial variety, in their order of catchability, are plastic shrimp (Touts, Viking Flapper tails, Lupo Shrimp and Jim Bagley's Salty Dogs)—I personally favor the 5/16-oz. Salty Dogs for good chewability because they do not fall apart as fast and beautifully simulate shrimp hops and skips under water; small white bucktails (Smiling Bills, ¾-to 1-ounce) with a dash of yellow in them; small Psychosquids with ½-ounce heads; and small Hopkins lures.

Eighty percent of my casting and jigging for weakfish involved the use of 5/16 oz. pink and amber Salty Dogs, with amber color having the edge on catch for the simple reason that it has been my experience that this color produces more fish during the latter hours of the day just prior to sunset. Why, no one seems to know, not even the male weakfish who constantly croak to me when caught.

I have used all colors of Salty Dog: yellow, clear, lemon-lime, mustard, amber and pink. I have tried all combinations: white heads with pink blanks, red heads with white blanks, yellow heads with amber blanks (blanks are the plastic tails that you fit around the hook which is molded to a lead head), etc., and have to say that amber with red heads have been most productive. Pink with white heads are a close second.

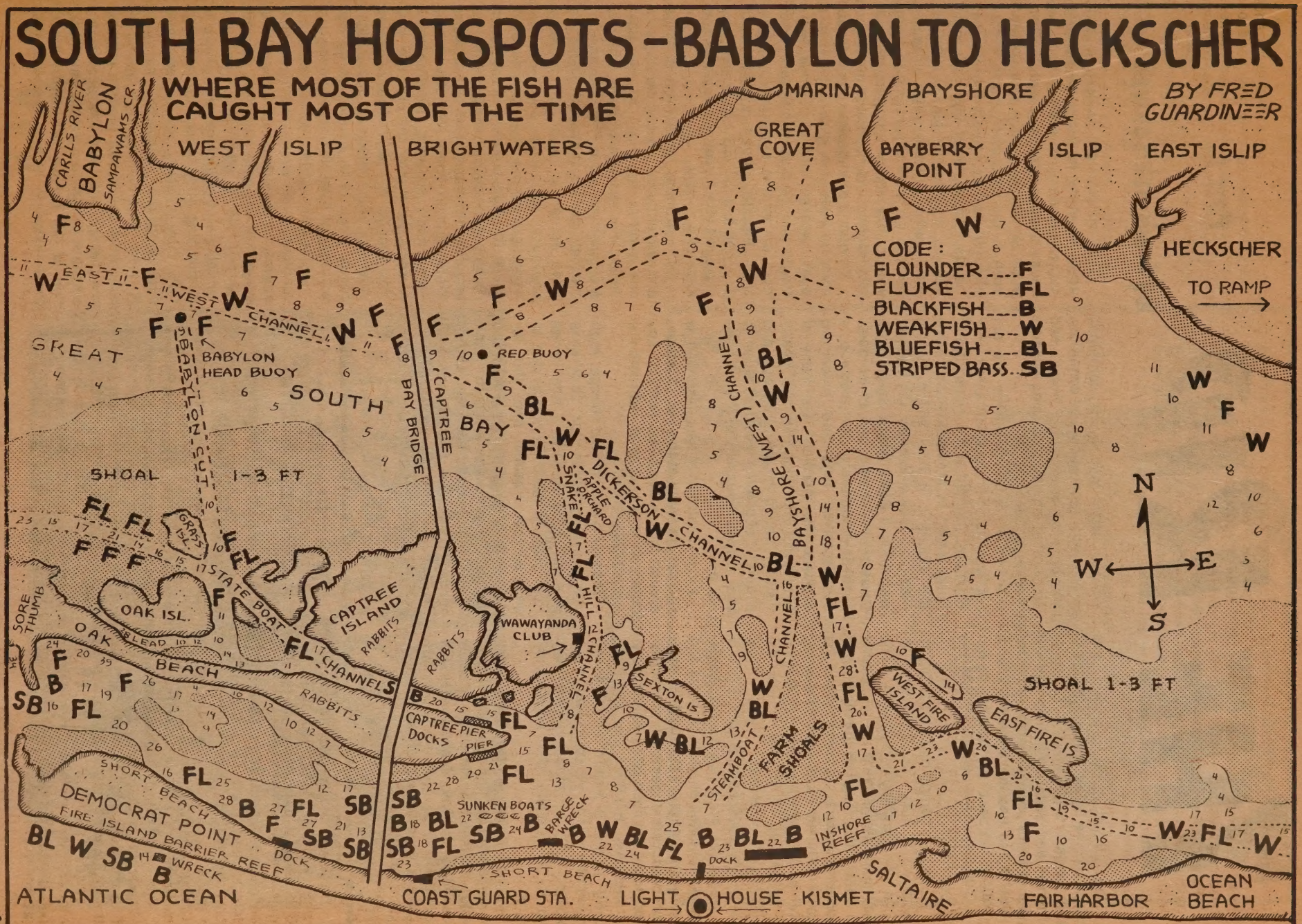
At any rate, whether you be anchored or moving in a slow drift, cast down-current or opposite the direction of drift, and with your lure on the bottom raise your rod tip with sharp, sudden little lifts to make the plastic thing jump just like a grass shrimp. It should be obvious that if you are anchored you will have to cast out over and over again and retrieve your lure with these short lifts or snaps of your rod to put action into the lure.

If you are in a slow drift it will not be necessary for you to constantly keep casting. Once you have cast your lure out, and as the boat drifts, you can keep lifting up the rod tip, which in turn will produce the hop-and-skip imitation of the live shrimp.

It is imperative that your drag be set quite loosely for you will find that weakfish attack quite savagely and, if you do not let them run once they are hooked, you won't stop them.

When weakfish make their run, and let's say that you have a big tide-runner on and it looks as it you are going to lose him, open up the bail and see what happens. It is amazing how many weakfish stop for breath when they don't feel any resistance on their mouths. When you do this—especially when the line goes slack—reel in quickly. After you have recovered some of your line and feel resistance, keep reeling in; the fish is still on, and maybe this time you will be able to turn his head and continue your battle with him going in your direction.

(To be concluded next week)


SOUTH BAY HOTSPOTS - BABYLON TO HECKSCHER
WHERE MOST OF THE FISH ARE CAUGHT MOST OF THE TIME
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BABYLON
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MARINA
BAYSHORE
GREAT COVE
BAYBERRY POINT
ISLIP
EAST ISLIP
HECKSCHER
TO RAMP
CODE :
FLOUNDER ....F
FLUKE .....FL
BLACKFISH....B
WEAKFISH....W
BLUEFISH....BL
STRIPED BASS..SB
EAST CHANNEL
WEST CHANNEL
BABYLON HEAD BUOY
RED BUOY
GREAT SOUTH BAY
BABYLON INLET CUT
BAY BRIDGE
CAPTREE
SHOAL 1-3 FT
GRAY ISL.
STATE BOAT CHANNEL
OAK ISL.
SORE THUMB
OAK BEACH
LEAD
CAPTREE ISLAND
RABBITS
WAWAYANDA CLUB
SNAKE
APPLE ORCHARD
DICKERSON
HILL CHANNEL
SEXTON IS
CAPTREE PIER
Docks
PIER
BAYSHORE CHANNEL (WEST)
STEAMBOAT CHANNEL
FARM SHOALS
WEST FIRE ISLAND
EAST FIRE IS
SHOAL 1-3 FT
SHORT BEACH
DEMOCRAT POINT
DOCK
FIRE ISLAND BARRIER REEF
WRECK
SUNKEN BOATS
BARGE WRECK
INSHORE REEF
DOCK
SHORT BEACH
SALTAIRE
ATLANTIC OCEAN
COAST GUARD STA.
LIGHT HOUSE
KISMET
FAIR HARBOR
OCEAN BEACH
N
W
E
S

THE RIP

Part I

by Frederick Schwab

The subject of this article was chosen in the belief that a number of LIF readers would find it to be of interest and value in the pursuit of their favorite pastime. Also, in recent years it has become apparent that a growing number of surf anglers do not know how to fish or handle themselves in *fast* water.

A logical beginning would be to establish a clear understanding of what we will be discussing. The dictionary defines a *rip* as, "...a body of water made rough by the meeting of opposing tides or currents", and "a current of water roughened by passing over an irregular bottom." A *current* is defined as, "...a tidal or nontidal movement of water", and "flow marked by force or strength".

Generally, on a year-to-year basis, areas dominated by swift currents and turbulent waters are the most dependable producers of gamefish most often sought by the surfcaster, specifically: striped bass, bluefish, and weakfish. Long Island's beach anglers are indeed fortunate, for their waters are blessed with an infinite number and variety of locations with such conditions.

Whenever and wherever the action of tidal change forces a volume of water through a relatively narrow channel or opening, fast currents and rips will occur. Such conditions are responsible for the swift waters encountered within, and adjacent to, inlets and certain harbor outlets. On a smaller scale, this factor combined with runoff creates similar conditions within the outlets of rivers and streams which flow into Long Island's marine waters.

However, such conditions are not confined to the aforementioned. For example, situated at the eastern tip of Long Island is Montauk Point. Here the influence of tidal action over a rocky and uneven bottom, the clash of waters from Block Island Sound with those of the Atlantic, and an irregular coastline combine to produce a multitude of rips and sweeping currents. So turbulent are many of Montauk's rips that they are clearly visible, even to the untrained eye, and a number of boating disasters attest to the treacherous nature of these waters.

Finally, conditions best described as rips can be found at the tips of jetties, around bridge supports, rocks or any object which impedes or redirects the flow of water.

Rips form during tidal change, high tide to low and low to high. Occurence of a particular stage in a tide varies from place to place, primarily due to geographical location and the influence of land contours. Usually the timing of a tide stage will occur some 30 to 60 minutes later each day. Under normal conditions the duration of change, that is, from one extreme to the other, is constant; in general, slightly more than six hours is an acceptable average for this area.

Tidal currents are far less predictable. At many locations a true *tidal* current seldom, if ever, occurs because circumstances needed to create such conditions simply do not exist; such is the case along many of our straight and relatively featureless beaches far removed from any inlet. Second, a *detectable* current, that is, water which moves with sufficient force to carry an object or lure along with it, may last for 5 or more hours at one location and far less at another.

Third and most basic is the fact that such currents start slowly, build to a peak, weaken and stop; thus some stages may be hardly noticeable and, from an angling standpoint, ineffective. Fourth, moon phase, wind direction and velocity can have a very profound effect upon the duration and force of a current.

Fifth, at many locations tidal stage and current may be contradictory to one another for much of the tidal period. For example an eddy, which is a circular current or flow contrary to the main current, may exist. These are often associated with abrupt shore contours or large obstructions. Another example is a situation in which the tide is either dropping or rising but the current continues in the opposite direction, in some locations for two or more hours after the change had actually occurred. *Contradictory* currents donot alter the duration of a tidal change, but rather appear to and unless carefully observed and understood, often raise doubts as to the accuracy of local tide predictions.

Of course, under severe weather conditions such as an intense coastal storms, currents and even tides will be subject to extreme variables. Strong easterly winds blowing for an extended period of time generally have a diminishing effect upon the fall of a tide, thus reducing and on occasion eliminating the "detectable" current. A long duration of high west or northwest winds will tend to reduce the rising tide and corresponding currents. In simplest terms, interruption of the normal tidal rythym, in these instances, is due to the winds

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pushing, thus forcing a holding action upon the water.

A discussion of tides, currents and rips is incomplete without considering the all-important effects which the moon and, to a lesser degree, the sun have upon them. Tides are caused by a gravitational force exerted upon our planet by the sun and moon. This force is most intense when these two celestial bodies are in line with one another. The highest and lowest tides normally occur during the full and new or no-moon periods, and are known as *spring tides*. It is during these periods that the greatest range between high and low occurs. *Neap tides*, which take place one ot two days after the first and third quarters of the moon, produce far less variation between the two tidal extremes.

Logically, spring tides move the greatest volumes of water, thereby creating the strongest tidal currents and resultant rips. Ordinarily, fish will be present in greatest numbers, be more agressive and feed more actively during these periods.

Rips and currents produce good fishing because moving water usually will hold predators within a given area for a comparatively longer period of time than still or sluggish water. As the force of a current builds, smaller baitfish within the area, or passing through, find it increasingly difficult to manuever and, in effect, to control their destiny. Swift currents force the bait from many areas which, during slack water, provided them with a haven from predators, and the few protective areas which remain are not easily reached. A dropping tide further complicates matters for the bait by forcing it to leave the protective shallows adjacent to the shore.

Eventually the bait is helplessly swept along. Upon reaching an area of extreme disturbance, such as a rip, the bait may lose all control even to the point of being tossed and tumbled about. Such conditions present easy pickings for the larger and more powerful predators; thus they will concentrate within a rip, shifting with the bait supply, across, up-or down-current, near or well below the surface, but usually remaining for as long as the food supply is sufficient to satisfy their appetites.

Parts II, III and IV will touch upon the when, where do's and don'ts of fishing a rip, as well as tackle, lures and the handling of yourself and the fish.

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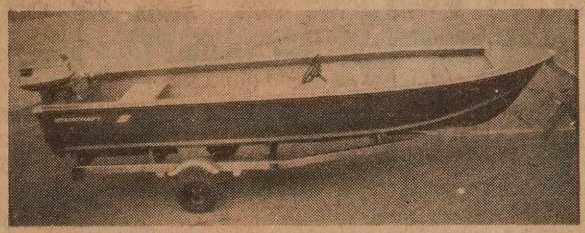

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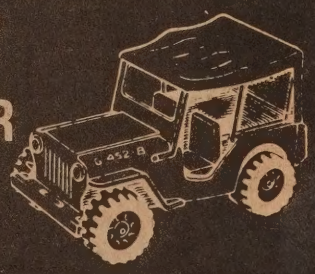

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Beluga

by Jack "The Professor" Frech

Bass were going "ape" one hundred and fifty feet off shore in Turtle Cove. Lunkers rolled, splashed and made washtub-sized holes in the water as they had a picnic with big bait. Pandemonium broke loose as the word got out. Everyone and his brother was there throwing everything but the kitchen sink. Except for a couple of stray fish picked up on Atom 40's, no one, but no one of the horde gathered for the slaughter had a fish.

I was there with every other regular, "hoople," and once-a-month fisherman; like everyone else, just talking to myslf. Here it was, the chance of a lifetime for a killing, and the bass—monsters, all of them—wouldn't look at anything except a swimming plug, and a particular one at that.

In some way, shape or form, that plug had to be made to cast. The day in question my Atoms were loaded with an extra half-ounce of lead, all to no avail. They just didn't go far enough. Surely, the Atom couldn't be improved upon. Consequently, the only answer was a substitute plug. Possibly not as good under some conditions, but one that would go the distance when big bass were flirting their tails in rough water away out in the surf.

What a winter! At least twenty wooden-type Atoms, each with some minor variation, came off my workbench. Religiously they were tried out in Herricks Pond when there was no ice, but each proved to be just so much junk. The major problem was the lip. With it, no plug, including the Atom, casts worth a damn. Without it, not one of the swimmer models would work.

Lick the lip! became the challenge. A good company had tried with a hinged lip on a solid plastic plug and failed miserably. No one else had dared to put their company name on the line.

The lip had to fold if the plug was to cast. That meant only a hinge or some other folding device. Better men than I had failed on the hinge, so it had to be something else. Finally, after just about giving up, one day I noticed my secretary flipping the day sheets on a

yearly calendar. Couldn't wait to get home! Might a couple of pieces of wire be bent to act as tracks for a lip? The rest is incidental.

A #6 Colorado spinner, left over from the old flaptail days, purchased from Herters, was cut to make the lip. Two holes were drilled below the cut. Voila! A movable lip.

Like most new ideas, fitting it to the plug body was merely a trial and error affair. A notch was cut in the lower half of the head. The lip was fastened in the notch with two home-made brass pins.

The plug was large, one and one-quarter inches in diameter. Normal weighting was insufficient. The plug just worked on top and waddled. Eventually, a new weighting technique solved this problem. Before the head was shaped, an off-center hole was drilled close to the belly of the plug. Into this hole was inserted the balancing weight.

Made of birch, it weighed almost six ounces and sank like a lead balloon. To reduce the weight and to impart more flotation, select white pine was substituted for the birch. This, with a few alterations, brought the finished article in at just 4½ ounces.

Some little thing was still wrong. While visiting Pete Vojtek of the Connecticut Salt Water Flyrodders, I dragged out this amorphous creation. He heard me swear, "There must be over one hundred hours in this thing. It is almost right, but some small part of it is wrong."

One quick look and he said, "Did it ever occur to you that the eye on the head is too high?"

Any jerk should have recognized this at once. My excuse was that I never looked at the plug objectively, just too close to it. Pete can give me lessons anytime, because I consider him "the ultimate." He is a mechanical genius who lives, breathes and exists to develop home shop machines designed to produce plugs—for the fun of it! His basement is the only workshop where plugs are made which makes me drool in envy.

Home again, the misplaced hanger was quickly ripped out.

Some of the heavy birch models were hanging on a line in my basement when Dick Hasenzahl, a friend, stopped in for a visit. Before the new plugs could be hidden, he had one in his hand.

"Gad! how much does it weigh? What is it, a whale?"

After he left, I though "a whale"—a white whale, a Beluga!

The following September and Octo-

ber the plug was worth its weight in gold. Lots of rough water, the kind surf fishermen pray for, and the bass way out off Caswells. They couldn't get enough of the new plug. They ate it up.

1. Build by hand or lathe a dowel 1¼-inch in diameter of select white pine, seven and one-half inches long.
2. Draw a diameter across one end of the dowel, and from one end of it a center line along the length. One-half inch from the junction of these two lines make a mark on the diameter. This represents the center of a ½-inch hole to be drilled for the balancing weight.
3. Drill a ¼-inch hole centered on this mark about three inches deep. Use the utmost care to keep the drill bit straight at right angles to the end. I use a drill press and experience no difficulty in this operation. Redrill with a ½'' bit to the desired depth, three and one-half inches.
4. Cast a number of lead slugs,1½-inches long by ½-inch in diameter. These may be cast in home-made wooden molds. The results will be rough on the surface and may have to be filed a bit before they will fill the hole.
5. Ram home a lead slug. Check to insure that it is completely seated. Fill the remainder of the hole with a one-half inch birch dowel. A bit of epoxy smeared on the dowel fastens it permanently in place.
6. from the tail end of the centerline draw a second diameter. On this mark the position of the tail hanger eye 3/8-inch from the topside. Draw a 3/8-inch circle around this position.
7. Drill the hole for the tail hanger eye with a ¼-inch drill, ½-inch deep.
8. Round off the head, using the same technique as for the tail of a W-Y POPPER. Mark two concentric circles on the head end, one of these ¼-inch from the circumference, the other ¼-inch from the center. Mark another line around the head 5/8-inch inch from the end. Cut away the excess wood between this line and the outside circle.
9. Mark a line around the plug in the middle of the previous cut. Again, remove the excess between this line and the remaining end circle. Finish by rounding the head with a course file and open coat sandpaper. A lathe is a real luxury in this operation.
10. Shape the tail. Note particularly that this tail is high, not mid-plug as in all other swimmers -

- draw a line around the body two inches from the tail end of the dowel.
- remove the excess wood between this line and the 3/8-inch circle. I rough-cut top, bottom and sides with a hacksaw and round off with a coarse file and sandpaper strip.
- smooth the body into the angular line of the tail at both the top and the bottom. At this time, extend the curvature of the tail to a point on the center line three inches from the end.
- gradually reduce the three-eighths inch diameter at the extreme end of the tail, filing or sanding from the middle of the tail section until it is a bit over ¼-inch.

11. Cut the lip recess in the head. This controls the casting position of the movable lip and, on the retrieve, the swimming position.
12. Now for the lip! With a hacksaw, cut the top off a #6 Colorado spinner and drill two 1/8-inch diameter holes.
13. Place the lip loosely in the recess and mark the positions of the two holes on the bottom of the recess. Carefully sighting, bore two parallel holes with a 1/16'' drill from the outside of the head through the center marks and out the base of the head. This takes a bit of practice.

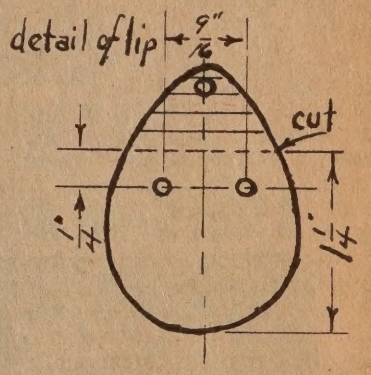
When a ''goof'' occurs, and it will, fill the hole with a 1/16-inch dowel and start all over again. Built correctly, this lip never hangs up on the cast or during the retrieve unless, of course, it becomes loaded with seaweed or grass.

14. Cut two pieces of 1/16'' brass welding rod slightly shorter than the depth of these holes. Drive them through the holes, locking he lip loosely in place. Fill the remainder of the holes with a dab of epoxy.
15. Drill ¼-inch hole as close to the top of the lip recess as possible. Note on th drawing that this hole is drilled into the head at an angle. Epoxy eye in place.
16. Drill the two belly-hook hangers and epoxy in place.
17. Follow normal finishing routines. Soak a bit longer than normal in the boiled lineseed oil because the pine acts as a sponge. Dry! Paint to suit individual taste. For some unknown reason, all of mine are white.

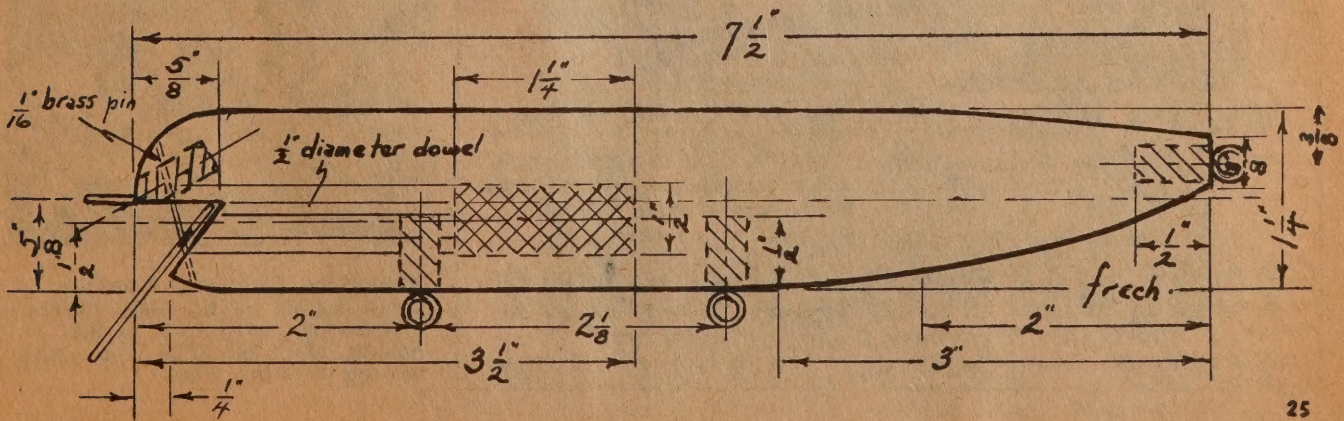
At times, due to some error in construction, or differing flotation qualities of the wood used, the weight unbalances the plug. To decrease the weight, drill ¼-inch holes on a center line into the balancing lead. Holes drilled closer to the rear belly-hook hanger will slightly raise the tail, while those closer to the front hanger will tend to raise the head.

One caution before using this swimmer. Tie a short Steelon or wire leader to the front eye. Sometimes, after banging around in the rocks, the lip becomes sharp and the monofilament will be abraided and the plug may be lost.

Surely every plugmaker who has persevered has had fun with this one. By now, everyone must realize there is more to making a swimmer than meets the eye.



BELUGA



SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Captain Dick Vigilant of the **Triton II** said that the cod action has been pretty good south of Block Island. Fish are mixed sizes to 25 lbs., average 12 per man on Saturday and 6 to 7 on Sunday small pollack mixed in. A party headed by Rev. Haines caught 56 cod and 3 blacks. Largest cod were 37, 34 and 31 pounds and one of the black fish weighed-in at 16 lbs. 3 ozs.

Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Star** said that fishing has been fair off the Block Island Banks. Daily catches run 150 to 200 fish with an average of 10 to 15 per man. Large blackfish and small pollack are mixed in. There is still a few openings for the May 18th Specail Nantucket Wreck Trip so give Paul a call for a reservation.

Captain Lester Behan of the **Peconic Queen II** said that the Andrea Doria Trip Sunday was very good. More details to come next week. Codfishing locally has been very good southeast of Block Island and the inshore and outer Catrwright Grounds, the MP buoy, and 20 minutes east of mid-way buoy. This Monday the PQII will begin the special Monday trips at 3 A.M. which gives the angler 8 hours of fishing time on Coxes Ledge.

The **Marlin III** has been doing very, very good with loads of big codfish 15 to 20 lbs. off Block Island. Subscribers should note that they received a $3.00 discount coupon for the Marlin III in their Fisherman's Package.

Ronnie at **Gone Fishing Marina** said that Saturday was very good for flounder averaging two pounds at Washington Shoals and Culloden Point. Codfish were disappointing due to the thick fog which made locating fish difficult. Flounders in the Lake remain excellent and average about a pound. The first fluke was taken on inner Shagwong and the draggers have been loading up on fluke on the south side for over 3 weeks.

Captain Buddy Dorman of the new **Viking Skipper II** called to say that he will make his maiden voyage on May 13th for cod, pollack, and snowshoe flounder. Subscribers received a $3.00 discount coupon for the Viking Skipper in the Fisherman's Package.

The charterboat **Devil Fish** took 38 cod in the 15 lb. class and 176 mackerel on Saturday between Great Eastern buoy and the north Rips on skimmer clams.

PROMISED LAND

Art Brand of the **Promised Land Fishing Station** said that the fish are there but a tough pick. On Saturday boats had from 2 to 35 flounder a boat ranging in size from 1¾ to 3 lbs. and up to 3½ lbs. Best areas are the east side of Cartwright Island and the Bell buoy. A few blackfish 4 to 8 lbs. are mixed in. Napeague Harbor is still producing 1 to 2 lb. fish. The better fishermen are making decent catches.

SAG HARBOR

Helen Jacobsen of the **Noyac Marina** said that Sunday was good despite the weather. Bruce Alter and Dennis Kennedy and companion took a large bucket of mackerel and at least 7 flounder 1¾ to 2 lbs. off the monastery with mussel. Mackerel are all over Jessups Neck.

SHINNECOCK

A weakfish of six pounds was taken in the canal on Saturday when the locks were closed. Flounder are also good in the canal and in Shinnecock Bay at the Coast Guard Station, Basket Grounds, and off the Indian Reservation. Three weakfish were taken on flounder rigs. Mackerel are outside the inlet in 90 feet of water.

HAMPTON BAYS

Frank's Fishing Station reported very, very good flounder on Saturday and weighed in one of 2 lbs. 4 ozs. that was taken off the Indian reservation. Buoys 17 and 18 are the hot spots on incoming water with bloodworms for bait and mussels for chum.

Ernie at **Bradley's Fishing Station** said that flounder were good at Greenlawn and the Basket Area. Fish ¾ to 1½ lbs. are being taken on any moving tide on bloodworms and mussel chum. No weakfish yet but reports of fish in the traps.

Captain Clark Jr. of the **Captain Clark** has been fishing at Jamesport in Peconic Bay with very good results since Wednesday. On Friday 19 people took 360 flounder. Pete Murray was high hook with 51 fish and Alexandra Whalen took 39 averaging ¾ to 1¼ lbs. with a few larger. On Sunday, 140 flounder were taken for 8 people despite the weather. Captain Clark said it was the best flounder fishing he's seen in 4 years.

Three Aces Bait & Tackle called to report that Vince facilli was fluke fishing Shinnecock Bay and boated a 4½ pounder on a squid and sandeel combination.

MORICHES BAY

"Terrific flounder over the weekend," is the report out of **Hi-Way Fishing Station**. Average per boat was 100 to 200 nice fish of 1 to 2 pounds. Incoming water is best but outgoing also produces. Chumming with mussels with bloodworms for bait. Seventy boats were out on Saturday, so it is advised you call for reservations. Right now is the best flounder fishing

Aboard the Triton II at Montauk: A party headed by the Rev. Haines took 56 cod, largest 37, 34 and 31 pounds, and 3 blackfish, one a real bulldog of 16 lbs. 3 ozs.

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of the 1975 season.

Seatuck Cove Fishing Station said that plenty of flounders are being taken at buoys 42, 43, 44 on incoming water.

He also says good size fish are taking bloodworm bait with mussel chum. Private boats are going outside for mackerel.

Dick's Tackle Box in Center Moriches said that flounder are very good at buot 27 and 42. Fluke are showing in the New Cut and small weakfish are at the Smith Point Bridge. Mackerel outside northwest of the Bell buoy in 70 feet of water.

Moriches Bait and Tackle reports scattered doormat fluke are being taken drifting sandeel and squid combos in the New Cut on incoming water. Blackfish 1-5 lbs. on fiddler and green crabs at the rocks in Moriches Inlet. Flounder are good in Forge River and around buoy 27. Fish average a pound and 40 to 50 per boat on incoming water. Weakfish report were buoy 39 and the mackerel are red hot 2 miles south/southwest from the Moriches Bell buoy. Private boats averaged 300 to 350 fish per boat on Saturday. Joe and Arlene Sidaras and family murdered blackfish to 10 pounds on the first 2 hours of outgoing water at Cedar Beach on the North shore.

MASTIC BEACH

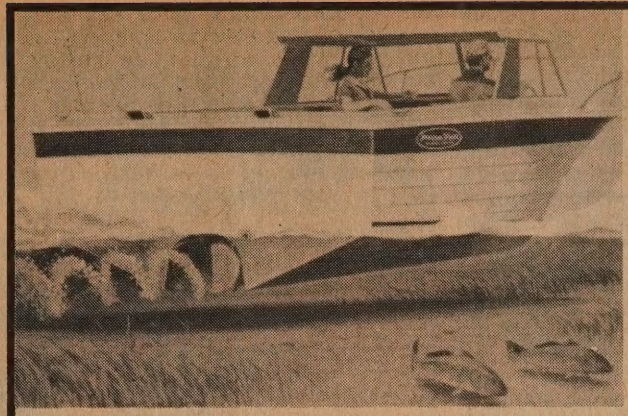
Keenan's Fishing Station reports plenty of flounder around in the 1 pound class just waiting for the fisherman to come and gather them up. Bloodworms, mussels and mussel chum make up the recipe on all moving water and catches from 60 to 100 fish per boat can be expected. The seafood restaurant has been enlarged, so you can stop in for a snack or an entire meal.

WEST SAYVILLE

South Bay Fishing Station had good action for flounder on Saturday, averaging 50 fish a boat in the 1½ lb. class on bloodworms and chum on incoming tide. Hotspots were northeast of buoy 29 and northeast of buoy 4. The first weakfish was taken by Ed Mossman on a pink Salty Dog, at 5 lbs. 2 ozs. This was northeast of buoy 4 and Ed dropped many other weakfish.

J&R Sports Center reports weakfish on Saturday of 4¾ lb. class taken by Paul Mayer of Huntington and Dennis Hagins of Oakdale on diamond jigs tipped with bloodworm and jigged off the bottom south of Heckscher. On Sunday Harvey Langbier of Oakdale had a ½ dozen weakfish off Ocean Beach. Same method.

Young's Fishing Station reports flounder action good between 29 and 30 buoys on outgoing water, chumming with mussels and worm baits. Some boats have caught up to 60 fish. A few went to Ocean Beach for weakfish with no luck.



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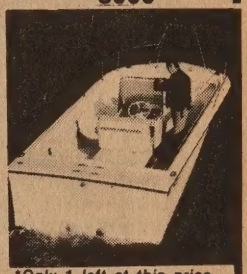

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Mike Fiesto, the dude without a hat, and friends Irv, Steve and Marty took these 90 flounder off Nichols Point on bloodworms. Photo courtesy of South Bay Fishing Station, West Sayville.

CAPTREE

Captain Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy V** said that mackerel fishing has been very good since Thursday. The afternoon trip on Friday was excellent with each man taking 50 to 100 fisheach of 1½ to 2 pounds. During the week the people caught so many fish they made the captain return to the dock by one o'clock. The schools are located 1½ to 3 miles south/southwest of the Beach.

The **Captain Swanson II** said that flounder have been pretty good off the Bay Shore flats, Heckscher Park, and Point of Woods. Fish are mixed sizes average 20 per man. Best on ebb tide. Weakfish are starting to show off Ocean Beach.

The **Captain Scotty** reports good flounder all week and on Saturday they really loaded up. Many fishermen had catches in the 40's while most averaged in the 20's. Small flounder are now mixed in the catches. Wednesday was fabulous with 40 to 50 fish per man. The afternoon mackerel trips are producing well. On Sunday one weakfish was taken and several were dropped off Ocean Beach. Joe Kane took the first weak, a 5 pounder.

Captain Bob Patafio of the charter-boat **Yankee** said that on Friday Lt. Bill Ingersoll of the Orangetown P.D. was high hook with 40 flounder, while others averaged 10 to 15 fish each. The spot was the Bay Shore Channel on any moving water with dyed clams and bloodworms for bait. Mackerel were terrific 3 miles south of the inlet in 60 feet of water on Saturday and Sunday.

L.I.F. Staff member **Scott Simons** broke the ice for weakfish on Sunday at buoy 12 and 13 off Ocean Beach. He only took one small fish but said that he could see the fish stacked 10 deep on his recorder—they just weren't feeding yet but should be by the time this report is red. Scott is now running around the Bay in his new Grady White Hatteras Overnighter so when you see him give a wave.

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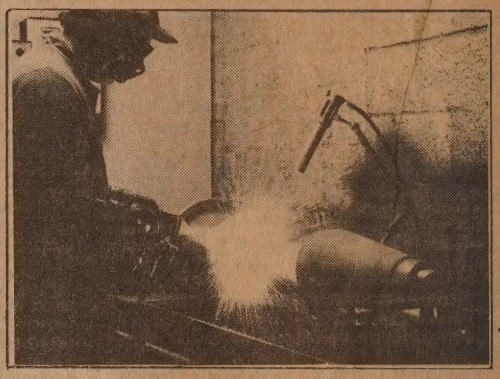

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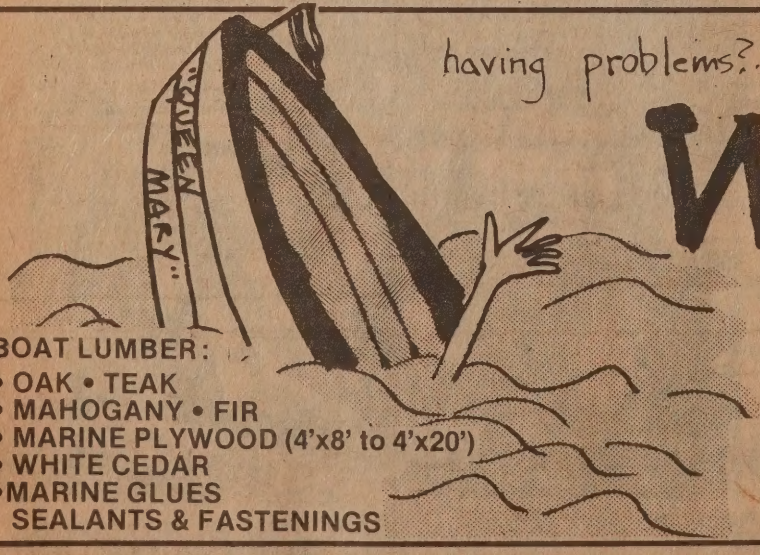

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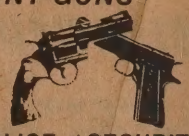

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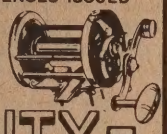

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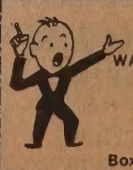

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OAK BEACH

Hayes at **The Store** informs us that a 2 lb. fluke was taken on Saturday under the north side of the last Moses bridge on squid and sand eels. Fred Laif and Harry Goldstein on Saturday and Sunday caught 47 blacks up to 8 lbs. 7 ozs. right behind The Store on fiddlers at dead low tide. The pier on the north side of the road has been producing very nicely for flounder and also a 2 1/7th pound porgy.

BAY SHORE

George at **Starfish Marine** reports good catches of flounder at buoy 3 off Heckscher Park and the Flats off Timber Point. Boats are taking 60 to 100 nice fat fish. Weakfish are being taken at buoy 15 off Ocean Beach on pink shrimp and outside the inlet in 36 feet of water drifting sandworms. Mackerel are also outside in 60 feet of water.

Twelve year old Michael Kegel of Bay Shore caught 13 flounder, largest 1¾ lbs. aboard the Lady Ann out of Captree.

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BABYLON

Mario at **High Hook Fishing Station** reports that on Saturday Charlie and two pals had 25 blacks on fiddlers to 5¾ lbs. under the last Moses bridge. There are also loads of flounder to 1½ lbs. all over the Bay. Thirty-forty per boat is common on bloodworms and mussels with chumming necessary.

Babylon Fishing Station reports 4 weakfish taken on Saturday in the Bay Shore Channel, north of West Island on Bagley Salty Dogs. Cast and retrieve on outgoing tide, these were 6 lbs. plus fish. Walter says flounders are in many places so call him for the exact spots. Bloodworm and mussel chumis the ticket, with fish averaging one pound with about 40 per boat. Even on miserable Sunday 4 boats went out and all came back with fish.

LINDENHURST

Charlie's Bait & Tackle reports mackerel are plentiful off the Bell buoy. Frank Said in his "I SAID" took 120 macks in 1½ to 2 pound class in one hour on mackerel trees with a diamond jig. WEAKFISH have been located and taken in sixty feet of water directly south of the Fire Island Lighthouse. CHUNKED MACKEREL drifted out, is the only thing they'll take there are blackfish under the Fire Island Bridge on live fiddlers. Great flounder fishing at Fox Creek (in back of sunken barge) off Grass Island, and off the Babylon Pool in the east/west channel and the hole off Bergen Point. These are fish up to 2 pounds and the best time for them is at any change of tide with bloodworms working best. Also some blue claw crabs have been taken.

AMITYVILLE

Jonas Bait & Tackle reports blackfishing is getting hot. Fred Lang had 25 to 8 lb. 7 oz. on fiddlers at Oak Beach off the jetties. Jonas also says flounders are good all over, with mackerel and herring thick at the Bell buoy in 35 feet of water.

Mike's Fish & Tackle has reports of mackerel in 65 feet of water out of Jones Inlet and is happy to see spring finally arrived. Mike has this new shop fully equipped and supplied now and says he has worms that would choke an elephant.

SEAFORD

Captain Eddy's Fishing Station says the flounder fishing is very good on all tides for 1 lb. class fish at 4 Corners, Fort Neck Point and Post #10. A 3 pound weakfish was nailed Saturday on a flounder rig tipped with red clam and mussel. Be advised that there are killies and spearing in the water.

Lon Wanser Bait & Tackle informs us that two mates claimed to have gotten 11 weakfish off Ocean Beach on Saturday, but this was not substanciated with fish or photos by the mates, but lets hope they're true. Sunday was great for mackerel southeast of Fire Island. Flounder fishing is fantastic, fish to 1¼ lbs. at Fort Neck Point, Florence Beach, Squaw and West Island and Four Corners. Bloodworm and mussel chum are your weapons and the outgoing tide your battle field.

Dell's fishing Station advises fishing for flounder west of the Meadowbrook Draw Bridge on both sides of the highusing mussel chum with clam and worm baits.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** informs us that on Saturday two flushing anglers, Martin Batushansky and Bill Kostiw had a great day fishing Ned's Creek and Broad Creek with the biggest fish weighing 2 lbs. 13 ozs. One boat brought in a 1 foot long weakfish on a flounder rig. Best baits for this area are bloods, mussels and clams along with chumming with mussels at the last of the outgoing and all of the incoming. Catches were 30/60 per boat.

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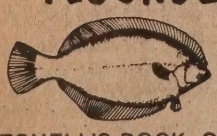

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N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

Captain Paul Schmidt of the **Aloma II** reports excellent mackerel fishing both Saturday and Sunday, despite Sunday's winds. He found mack's up to 2 pounds from Jones Inlet buoy 2 to Fire Island Catches were in the ½ to ¾ sack range per man. Flounder fishing was also excellent on the Aloma, with one to two pound fish being pulled from the State Channel and Swift Creek using bloodworms and mussels on incoming water.

The **Captain Al** has had excellent mackerel fishing just 15 minutes southeast of Jones Inlet. On saturday the fishing was so fast that the boat was back at the dock at 1:45 P.M., with up to 200 fish per man, fish up to 2½ lbs. Al will be starting 5 P.M. - 9 P.M. mackerel trips every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday night.

Captain Richie Kessinger of the **Starstream II** was jumping out of his socks with enthuasism over the fantastic mackerel action over the week and weekend. Fish up to 3 lbs. (averaging 1¼ lbs.) were located and pulled between Jones Inlet and the Fire Island Tower. Which is just a 45 minute ride for the fast all-aluminum Starstream. There were bags and bags

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of macks and a boat load of happy fishermen exclaimed Richie. His only regret was that more of the weekend crowd didn't sail with him on his weekday trips, as there is much more room to fish and spread out. Due to the huge turnouts over the weekend, unfortunately many anglers were unable to board.

Captain Marty of the **Empire Fleet** informs us that he had great mackerel fishing in 60 feet of water on Saturday south of the Inlet and east of Cholera. Herring were mixed in also. On Sunday, the Empire and a happy charter had superb flounder fishing at the Coast Guard Station on out going tide on bloodworm and clam, no chum. Some blacks were picked up too. Swift Creek was another hot spot.

The **Blue Fin** enjoyed a great mixed bag Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of 1 lb. flounder blacks to 4 pounds and some whiting at the Coast Guard Statin and Meadowbrook Bridge. Captain Sy had excellent mackerel action on Saturday and says the key to success is to get off by yourself, establish your own chum slick, and fish alone.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports fantastic flounder action for there skiffs. Fish running ¾ to a 1½ on bloodworm and clam with mussel chum. The best areas are the end of Freeport Creek and Swift Creek. Incoming water seems to be best. There is loads of killies in the water. On miserable Sunda, three boats went out and each boat had three or four dozen fish.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station said the flounders were very good at the Reynols Channel, Middle Bay, North Channel and Cinder Creek. The boats had about 50 to 100 fish which were taken mostly on worms with mussel chum. Several boats tried for blackfish, using fiddler crabs, at the Meadowbrook Bridge. A lot of blacks were from 4 to 6 lbs. and the biggest was 7½ ls. The best tide was the last half of the incoming and the first of the outgoing.

ISLAND PARK

the big news from **Beckman's Tackle** in Lynbrook is the sighting of numerous schools of weakfish seen in the creeks of Woodmere—Hewlett. These are 2-3 pound weaks and have been hittin the Salty Dog lure. The biggest weaks that were weighed in were a couple of four pounders taken on the new Bingle Bait Tail lure.

The **Ginnie Mae** reports very good mackerel action, with fish to 2 lbs. at the NC buoy and south of Jones Inlet in 75 feet of water, ½ sack per angler is common.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Henning's Fishing Staiton said the best flounder fishing is near the Cedarhurst Yacht Club. Chum and patience well reward the angler with 40 to 50 fish per boat. Bob Spence with his sons Gary and Richy fished the Saturday A.M. slack tide at the Atlantic Beach Bridge and had two dozen blacks of 2 to 4 lbs. they had several others but all were taken on fiddlers. They then went to the Cedarhurst Yacht Club where they fished for flounder. They kept 47 of them one of which was just 1 oz. short

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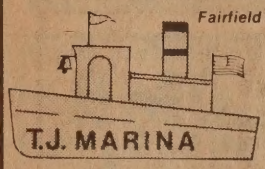

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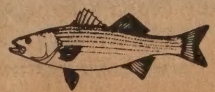

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of 2 lbs. For those who went offshore to the NC buoy it was picky for mackerel.

JAMAICA BAY

John Brando at **Crossbay Rod & Gun** said the flounders are doing pretty goo. the Silver Hole and both the North and South Channel bridges have numerous ½ lb. flounders. These fish will take worms, clam or mussel. Ask John what tide is best for the spot you want to fish. The Marine Parkway bridge has one pound and up blackfish. They are hitting on fiddlers and clam.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Mike's Tackle reports the mackerel was spotty as they are in small patches from Fire Island to the B.A. buoy. Flounders are in the holes near Idlewild Airport and also west of the Rockaway Jetty along with the blackfish. The blacks are not only at the jetty but at Sea Bright and local wrecks.

Captain Fred of the **Amberjack IV** had good mackerel fishing all week running both east and south on various days fish ran from 1 to 2 pounds. The Amberjack has only 13 remaining spots open for the next Nantucket Wreck Trip on Memorial Day Weekend. Captain Fred will be sailing at 6:30 P.M., Friday May 23rd and returning Sunday afternoon. See ad for details.

Captain Wrege of the **Chief** the only 10 A.M. open boat had a great mackerel trip Saturday around the buoy 2, Jones Beach area. Fishing was also very good for mackerel for the whole week, when the Chief sailed and fished the NC buoy, Klondike and Asbury Park areas. The macks are running up to 1½ lbs.

Captain Tony of **Big Mohawk II** informs us that he had the Seaboard Inc. charter out on Saturday and the Paterson, N.J. Elks on Sunday for mackerel. For those aboard who knew how to fish for mackerel there were all the fish you wanted. Hotspots were ½ hour east of the NC buoy and also off Fire Island. Thursday on an open boat trip many senior citizens pulled 80 to 90 mackerel, and on Saturday an 8 lb. cod was taken on a mackerel jig that was sent to the bottom accidentally.

The **New Zephyr** has been doing very well with mackerel averaging 1½ lbs. roughly ½ sack per man. The buoy 2 and 4 areas have been hot. The New Zephyr has been blackfishing during the week running east and south. Blacks off the Shrewsbury Rocks have been running 3 to 8 lbs.

The **Mary** sailed on Saturday and did a good job on the invading schools of mackerel according to Captain Dom.

The **Pilot II** has been staying mainly with the blackfish and doing a job on them with green crabs off the Jersey Coast. When the macks are really thick and boiling Captain Tom shoots

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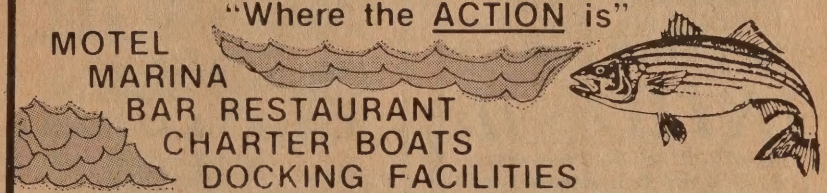

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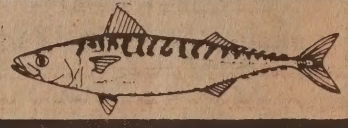

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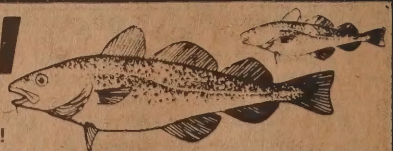

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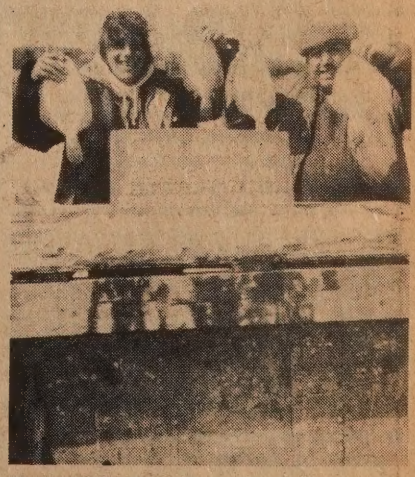
for them.

Captain John Kull of the **Jonny K II** had a 19 man charter out Saturday and reduced the mackerel population by over 300. About 7 miles southeast of the NC buoy. John had a 100 fish on Sunday with the poor weather putting a kabosh on quantity of fish.

STATEN ISLAND

Very good flounder fishing on the beach side of Great Kills Park according to **Santo's Sport Shop**. the dental works in Princess ay and Sharrot Ave., are also good spots to pick up tese ½ to ¾ lb. flounders. Stripers have been a slow, steady pick on all tides. A lot of these fish are about 4 lbs. but the biggest weighed in so far was an over 16 pounder. The same spots for the flounder seem O.K. for these stripers mostly on worms. The rock jetties and the old broken piers are good spots for the blacks which are being caught with increasing fequency.



Gasper Teri and son, Junior, of Brooklyn brought in 36 flounder up to 1½ lbs. in Great Peconic Bay, west of Robins Island. Photo courtesy of Capt. Marty's Fishing Station.

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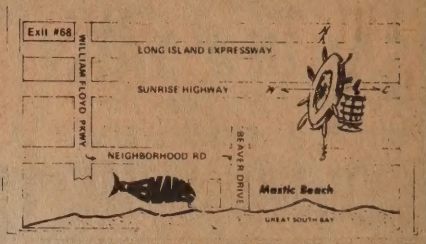

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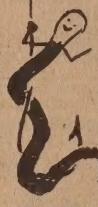

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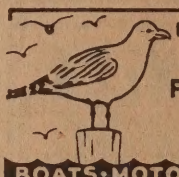

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NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

GREENPORT

White's Bait Shop said there are loads of macks from Greenport to the Long Beach Point. Flounders are on the upswing and many go to 3 lbs. Gardiner's Bay, Cedar Island, Deering Harbor and the Greenport Jetty are all good spots. It is still a little early for the blacks but some have been taken. It also looks good for the weakfish as many large ones have been taken from the traps.

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt Fishing Station said the mackerel were good Saturday A.M. but picky in the P.M. Flounders were taken off Conklin Point and the west end of Long Beach. The first porgy of the season took a worm at the abandoned Light House and was 1 lb. A couple of 1 lb. weaks took squid at Jessups Neck while a 3½ pounder took a diamond jig rig meant for mackerel off the Greenport Jetty.

NEW SUFFOLK

Captain Marty's Fishing Station said they had a variety of fish come in over the weekend. Mackerel, sea bass, porgies, blacks (to 8½ lbs.) and flounder were all take. The blacks were taken south of buoy 23 while the rest of the fish were teken at Nassau Point and buoy 22 and 23. Most of the flounders came from buoy 22.

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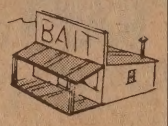

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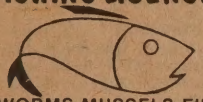

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JAMESPORT

Warrnes Tackle Center in Aquebogue reports the first of the weakfish in 70 feet of water off the Greenport Launching ramp and at Robins Island. A couple of 5 and 6 pounders were taken on a pink Mister Twister. Macks have been up on top off Greenport. Buoy 9 near the mouth of the Peconic River has good flounder fishing.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

There are a lot of blacks off Cedar Beach, Rocky Point and the flats at buoy 11. The best bet for blacks is Miller Place. They are hitting fiddlers and skimmer clams. Flounders are also being caught in the same areas as the blacks but are taking worms and mussels. The area is loaded with mackerel and some 1 lb. porgies have been taken at buoy 11 and Miller Place.

Dick's Sporting Goods confirmed the good blackfish and flounder reports with the weighing of a few 12 lb. blacks and many 10 and 11 lb. fish. the flounder are in both the harbor and the Sound. Cedar Beach and Miller Place Beach have both had good action with striped bass. They are taking worms on the bottom but no lures as yet. These fish are from 4 to 7 lbs. and no shorts.

PORT JEFFERSON

Captain John Fisher of the **Betty W** has been having good flounder fishing all week with fish up to 3 lbs. Friday Tony Costello was high hook with 20 flounder up to 2¾ lbs. On Saturday, the Lighthouse Fishing Club of Uniondale had 7 men aboard and took 100 fish. John Gorman had a 3 lb. pool winner. Big blacks and macks are moving in fast says John. John gets his best results with mussel baits and mussel chum at Mount Misery Shoals.

Charlie at **Caraftis Fishing Station** said the mackerel came in on Friday and have gotten stronger ever since. They are running over 1½ lbs. Blackfish are being taken on soft baits on the shoals at Mt. Misery Point. The surf fishermen have also gotten a crack at these big blacks at Cedar Beach. THe biggest black was 9 lbs. with none under 4 lbs. A few porgies have been caught. Bob Rocchetta of Setauket fished four days in a row at Mount Misery shoals for flounder. He had over 100 ranging in weight from ¾ ro 1¼ lb.s.

NORTHPORT

The **Jennie Three** had excellent flounder fishing inside Northport Harbor, fish up to 1½ lbs. on sandworm. On Sunday captain Pete's wife (Jennie) served as mate and all aboard were specially catered to.

Mort at **Larkfield Sports Center** said the flounder were good at Calahans Beach. Blackfish have been taken at

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53 W. Montauk Hwy LINDENHURST

Makamah and Eatons Neck. Striped bass action has been sporadic at Crab Meadow. Worms work well with Rebel plugs takeing over at night. These bass are 3 to 5 lb. schoolies.

HUNTINGTON

The **Ever Ready Fleet** has had very good flounder fishing in the Huntington Bay Area with Mrs. Ethal Kuteman of Huntington Station taking a 6½ lb. blackfish for a 25 dollar pool along with a bag of big flounder. On Sunday Tony Leo took the pool with a 4 lb. blackfish and also a load of flounder.

According to George at **Fout Winds Tackle** the flounder are plentiful in Lloyd Harbor. They are fat and are being picked up in the shallow water on worms with heavy chumming with skimmers or mussels. Eatons Neck bluff has also had its share of flounders along with the 3 to 6 lb. blacks. Black and big flounders have been taken by striped bass fishermen using owrms. Crab Meadow and Makamah beaches have been best. The striped bass have also hit worms at the Cold Spring Causeway and George said the tides this week should be good for it.

GLEN COVE

Mackerel and more mackerel says John at **Glen Cove Sports**. They cam in on Saturday afternoon and were spotted north of 'loew's Breakwater. John says try chumming with cat food or if two people are fishing keep the first catch of mackerel fighting in the water until the other parties connect.

Flounder and blacks are all along the shoreline and just need to be fished. Striped bass fishermen are now worm trolling for these fish.

PORT WASHINGTON

Morelands Bait & tackle said the Randome has been giving up striped bass to pluggers, worm drifter and trollers. The striped bass go to 9 ans 10 lbs. in size and are taken in moving water. Blacks are still good in the rocky areas and the flounder as well.

CITY ISLAND

Johns Gun & Tackle in the Bronx said there is goo flounder fishing in many spots. Matinecock Point and Stamford Harbor are your best bets.

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Blacks are starting to invade the rocky areas and New Rochelle breakwater is doing well. The mackerel have come into the Sound over the weekend but the rain kept a lot of boats from going out. For striped bass, try Turtle Cove and use a small Rebel "bunker" plug or the 4½" Rebel.

NEW JERSEY Fishing Report

Striper fishing steady is Sandy Hook area; with plenty of flounder mixed in. Blood and sand worms are the bait. Whiting are still being caught in the Raritan Bay.

LONG BRANCH

The blackfish are in. Worms and sand bugs are the bait.

SEASIDE

Excellent striper activity in the Seaside Area. Most of the fish are being taken on worms or mackerel strips. Small bucktails and small swimming plugs are accounting for a few stripers in Barnegat Bay.

BRIGANTINE

Stripers are being caught at the northend of Brigantine. Brigantine Inlet and grassy Channel. Small bucktails with mackerel strips are the producers. Also plenty of weakfish just offshore.

CONNECTICUT SCENE

PELHAM

lounders are the big news this week. Blacks are in but no huge catches yet. Mackerel were still further up in the sound as of May 5th. Stripers are spotty and still small in size.

NEW ROCHELLE

Blacks and flounders came in at a steady pace last week. There were even some nice blacks caught off the docks. Mackerel are just beginning to show.

GREENWICH

Some striped bass being caught in Greenwich. Flounders are plentiful while blackfishing is still a bit or miss operation. there are a few mackerel around but the fish will not start hitting until they are done spawning.

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TIDE TABLES

ON →	SANDY HOOK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT	
DAY	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
5/8 THURSDAY	6:38	6:57	8:15	8:28	10:43	10:46	10:09	10:24
5/9 FRIDAY	7:21	7:37	8:53	9:03	11:13	11:04	10:53	11:04
5/10 SATURDAY	8:01	8:14	9:33	9:40	11:33	11:31	11:33	11:42
5/11 SUNDAY	8:39	8:51	10:12	10:19	11:59	—	—	12:13
5/12 MONDAY	9:21	9:29	10:53	10:57	12:05	12:36	12:22	12:54
5/13 TUESDAY	10:03	10:10	11:38	11:42	12:47	1:18	1:04	1:37
5/14 WEDNESDAY	10:51	11:00	—	12:23	1:31	2:02	1:47	2:22
5/15 THURSDAY	11:42	11:50	12:28	1:15	2:18	2:51	2:36	3:12

SANDY HOOK

SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Potunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Inlet & Dem. Pt.	−0 38
Coast Giard Sta.	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Loop Pkwy. Bridge	+0 25
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 00
Beach Ch. (Bridge)	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26
STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
MANASQUAN	−0 12

WILLETS POINT

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	−0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28

NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Connecticut River	+1 10
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	−0 14
Fort Pond Bay	−0 29
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point	−1 13

BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	−0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	−0 08
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and/or minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet −0 50" is listed under "on Sandy Hook". — 0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good territory, hunting good cover during these times if you wish to find the best sport that each has to offer. The tables are not a guarantee that you will catch fish or see game during the period, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour and a half or two hours thereafter, and are in black face type. The minor periods are somewhat shorter in duration

	A.M		P.M.	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
5/8	2:55	9:25	3:20	9:45
5/9	3:35	10:05	4:00	10:30
5/10	4:15	10:50	4:45	11:15
5/11	5:00	11:35	5:30	11:55
5/12	5:45	—	6:15	12:30
5/13	6:40	12:55	7:10	1:35
5/14	7:50	2:10	8:20	2:30
5/15	8:45	3:05	9:15	3:30

PHASES OF THE MOON

5-11	5-18	5-25	5-3
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.

SUNRISE/SUNSET

5-6	5:55	7:58
5-12	5:49	8:04
5-18	5:43	8:10
5-24	5:38	8:15

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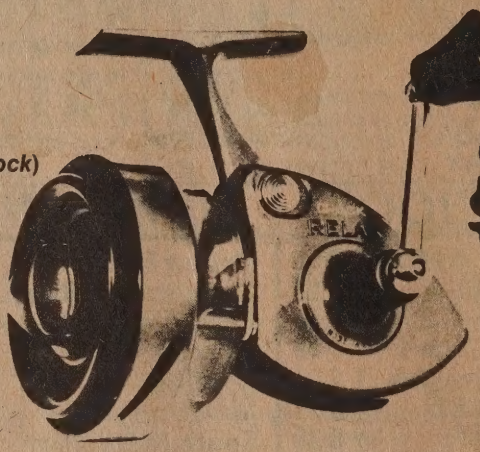

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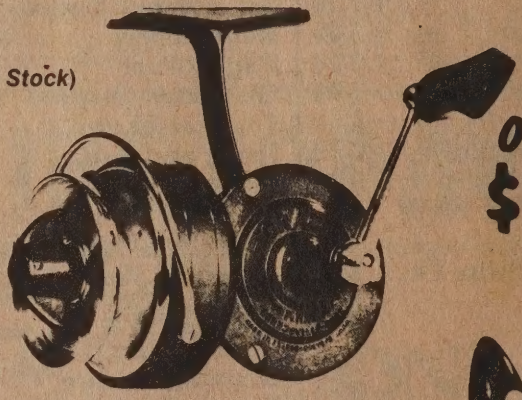

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